

Comprehensive Policy Collection 2016

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Economic Revitalization

[Creating hope for a strong economy]

1. Creating a virtuous circle of growth and distribution

By our “bold monetary policy”, “agile fiscal policy” and “benchmarks to stimulate private investment”, we realized to withdraw from deflation, as the economic indicators show.

Since we become certain that the economy is withdrawing from deflation and will result in growth, and that childcare and nursing care fostered a sense of security for each citizen, we will build a “new economic and social system” that encourages a raised consumption and investment expansion while further strengthening a virtuous economic circle. In other words, we will announce the “New Three Pillars” to realize a “virtuous circle of growth and distribution”, which are “the realization of a 600 trillion yen economic GDP”, “a desired fertility rate of 1.8” and “zero nursing career leaves”.

2. Achieving regional creation by local and small businesses as an achievement of Abenomics

Regional creation, the foundation of people’s lives, is a prerequisite for an active society of 100 million people. We will strongly promote local Abenomics to deliver vitality to every corner of each region that has not yet fully acquired the benefits of Abenomics. In addition, we will comprehensively develop an environment for distributing the fruits of growth from larger enterprises to small and medium enterprises by trying to appropriately pass on subcontracting costs and other transaction expenses.

3. Realizing a 600 trillion yen GDP economy

By establishing a “virtuous circle of growth and distribution” and based on the “three pillars”, we aim for a “600 trillion yen GDP economy” by sustainably expanding and balancing the entire Japanese economy, also in regional provinces. We will support the desire of each citizen to work more, to have a family, to realize the hope of giving birth and the healthy development of children via nursing care and will therefore raise our growth potential by overcoming structural problems and concerns of citizens as well as companies.

4. Expanding investments to overcome deflation

In addition to raising the “latent domestic demand” to realize the hopes of citizens, such as healthy longevity and child rearing support, we will utilize sightseeing and medical, health or beauty services

in Japan to exploit the “potential overseas demand”. In order for companies to develop new goods and services corresponding to these demands, we will actively promote capital investment in technology and human resources to enhance innovations and productivity. Aside from promoting a labor market reform, that balances the flexibility of the labor market and security of workers, we will support the rise of real wages and the increase of the minimum wage by also spreading increased employee incomes to small and medium-sized enterprises as well as non-regular employees. These measures will create a virtuous cycle expanding personal consumption and capital investments to ensure the overcoming of the deflation.

5. Overcoming deflation by bold monetary easing

Although we set price targets (2%) comparable to other developed countries in Europe or the US, we still carried our other bold monetary easing measures with different dimension to overcome deflations as soon as possible by policy-based collaboration of the government and the Bank of Japan, while also considering the stability of the government bond market. We will continue to respond appropriately and in a timely manner to new market trends. Regarding the amendment of the Bank of Japan Law, we will keep an eye on the surrounding market situation while continuing to consider future options.

In addition, we actively promote economic diplomacy on international macro policy coordination agreements centered on Japan, the United States and Europe and strive to stabilize and advance international negotiations to prevent further crises.

6. Flexible economic and fiscal policy

In addition to promoting agile economic and fiscal policies, we will carry out necessary policy measures to take advantage of the current negative interest rate and we will do our best to revive our economy.

7. Balancing economic growth and financial soundness

Based on the framework of our “economic and fiscal plan”, we will accelerate the creation of a virtuous cycle that encourages economic growth and contributes to the progress of fiscal consolidation. This will also contribute to the financial foundation for a sustainable and stable social security system, while also resolving the public’s concerns and expanding consumption.

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8. Promoting our growth strategy

As the growth strategy of Abenomics, we have formulated the “Japan revival strategy” in June 2013 and have revised it every year. This year, we will focus on: (1) the expansion of new promising growth markets and promoting local Abenomics, (2) drastically improving productivity to overcome the shortage of labor, (3) shifting to a new industrial structure responding to current challenges, by supporting human resource development, creating innovations and drastically broadening the “Japan revival strategy” to incorporate overseas growth markets.

At the second stage of Abenomics, we strongly promote this strategy and aim to realize a “600 trillion yen GDP economy”.

9. Becoming an economic major power by expanding the economic scale and strategic internationalization to create employment and a new GNI

In order to expand the whole economic scale and create jobs, it is important to not just keep up with the current situation of Japanese companies via GDP (Gross Domestic Product) but to also maximize the economic activity of Japanese enterprises by the GNI (Gross National Income). Japanese companies will create a strategy to intensively enter overseas markets and expand their domestic and foreign activities to acquire more national wealth.

Therefore, we will realize the globalization of the Japanese economy and enterprises, regional industrial development and human metabolism by policy induction, including the tax system, to create domestic wisdom. For example, we will form a research and living environment for companies to develop global human resources, and will therefore also introduce an educational environment to gather the world's "brains" in Japan to achieve international competitiveness and overseas development all over the world. To realize domestic wealth, we will realize a "virtuous capital circle" that creates new businesses and employment.

In order to promote the conclusion of economic partnership agreements and to build a solid international resource strategy enabling Japanese companies to incorporate emerging countries' economic markets, including the Asia-Pacific region, we promote the "international deployment strategy" and enable strategic foreign investment for industries and personnel to realize overseas expansion.

10. Promoting the corporate tax reform

We effectively reduced the corporate tax rate to 20% and thereby enable companies to increase their profitability and also facilitate increased wages and capital investment. We will continue to mobilize all necessary policies and aim to realize "the nation with the best businesses in the world".

11. 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. At the same time, we will reorganize the authorities in each ministry to strengthen our competitiveness.

In order to revive the Japanese economy, it is essential for companies to challenge new business fields, but not to hesitate due to various regulations. In the future, we will continue to further promote

the elimination of the gray zone system and the company exception system by constantly and quickly reviewing various regulations.

12. Reforming agricultural cooperatives

We will support the reform of agricultural cooperatives. Based on the Revised Agricultural Cooperative Law enforced in April this year, we will steadily promote reforms to enable local agricultural cooperatives to devise their ingenuity and to make full use of agricultural cooperatives towards increased wages for farmers and the growth of the agricultural industry.

13. Promoting a sharing economy

We will promote a regulatory reform to develop a sound sharing economy.

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We will promote the “sharing city concept” and a sharing economy to effectively utilize public assets, such as public halls or conference rooms, by improving national and local services concerning child rearing, sightseeing or work placement.

14. Promoting a regulatory reform contributing to diverse working styles

We will widely deploy corporate information disclosure initiatives to advance the field of youth employment, women’s success and child rearing support, and we will create a mechanism enabling everyone to find employment and career change without concerns.

15. Establishing a new medical welfare corporation 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.

16. Worldwide breakthrough of national projects originating from Japan

We will establish leakage countermeasures for Japanese cutting-edge technology, including advanced environmental energy technology, such as renewable energy, the world’s top-level energy network technology such as smart communities (since energetic innovations are the core of the storage battery industry, we will enhance the management to generate smart LIB innovation bases and develop related human resources), railway technologies, such as the Shinkansen or linear trains, membrane technology for water supply and sanitation as well as other technologies related to electricity and gas supply. We strongly support the international development of Japan’s excellent infrastructure-related industries, service industries and content industries, since these are the key industries of the future, and will therefore promote advanced medical or infrastructural technology and equipment and government top selling as well as financial policies by utilizing technical cooperation to prevent “bidding losses” in competitions. We will actively support the international expansion of technology, know-how and products as packages to developed and developing countries.

In particular, in order to integrate the rapidly increasing private-use infrastructure demand of Asia and Central and South America into Japan’s growth, it is necessary to further boost the use of overseas transportation, urban development project support organizations (JOIN) and public-private

partnerships (PPP). Thereby, we will actively develop and utilize project management experts whose roles are increasing in recent years.

17. Acquisition of 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.

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.

18. Realizing a productivity revolution

Technological innovations, such as IoT, big data analysis, artificial intelligence and robots are globally proceeding at a dramatic speed. By promoting the utilization of such technologies and generated data, we will realize a virtuous circle of sustainable growth by also improving the production efficiency of the industry and creating innovative services and products.

Therefore, we will formulate a vision and concrete strategies as a compass for the public and private sector.

19. Utilizing intellectual property to create “national wealth”

Japan is a natural resource-scarce nation, but Japan is rich in creativity.

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“Intellectual property”, the gift of creativity, is the precise source of “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, we will first strengthen and enhance the examination system of the JPO so that R&D achievements are protected promptly and stably in Japan and foreign nations as intellectual property. We will also “accelerate and improve the quality of assessments” while responding to the rapidly increasing literature, and we will also advance the environment to simplify reviewing in foreign countries. In addition, we will steadily

revise the “Patent Law”, “Design Law” and “Trademark Law” to strengthen Japan’s industrial competitiveness.

Aside from promoting the utilization of intellectual property for regional creation by SMEs as well as unused patents of universities or industries, we will develop a support system allowing research institutes and universities to sufficiently secure and nurture intellectual property experts with knowledge and experience. By expanding the support for human resources as well as for the numerical and qualitative expansion of intellectual property experts, we strive to enhance the education on intellectual property and cooperate with local communities and the whole society. Together, we aim to attract global research and development bases and personnel.

In addition, it is essential to prevent technology leakage, since the leakage of state-of-the-art technology developed in Japan greatly impairs our national interest. Therefore, we revised the “Unfair Competition Prevention Act” to strengthen the protection of trade secrets. We will continue to steadily revise this act.

In addition to improving the copyright and licensing system appropriate for the digital era and strengthening the functions of the intellectual property dispute resolution system, we will further fortify piracy and counterfeit countermeasures and enhance measures on infringement of intellectual property on the internet.

20. Promoting the “Cool Japan Strategy”

We will promote the “Cool Japan Strategy” and thereby aim to create true original JAPAN content and boast world-class Japanese animation, while preventing the multiplying of Japan’s manufacturing and animation skills of others. Specifically, we will improve the status of the Green Carpet of the Tokyo International Film Festival in Asia, promote the construction of MICE facilities, such as large-scale exhibition halls and international conference halls, upgrade Akihabara as the center of global content creation as well as tourism and will promote efforts to increase the opportunities to become a nation hosting world events.

We will actively spread the charm (soft power) of Japan, such as culture, tradition, food, clothing or housing, especially to foreign countries. Therefore, we will support investment by the “Overseas Demand Development Organization” and promote the dispatching of experts and advisers to demonstrate the characteristics of our living culture, including JAPAN brands or traditional Japanese crafts, and to disseminate attractive products to the world via a new model. We will also boost the international expansion of broadcasting contents as well as digital contents such as e-books, streams, online magazines, communication systems or electronic signage (digital signage) and will thereby parallelly increase the vitality of our social economy, including regional economies. In particular, regarding the overseas development of broadcasting contents, we will promote to maximize the utilization of the Broadcasting Program Export Association of Japan (BEAJ) of broadcasting content companies.

In addition, in order to promptly sell popular contents to foreign countries, it is essential to enhance and facilitate the processing of rights (strengthening the functions of the organization on video content right processing) and advance rights management via contracts.

Furthermore, we will not only create media content arts, such as animation, manga or games, but will also supports the construction of a system that generates total profit via “event managment” and “sales methods”. 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.

By further promoting the Cool Japan Strategy, we will industrialize the strengths of our culture and tradition and will therefore assemble public and private parties in the “Cool Japan Public-Private Partnership Platform” to promote cooperation across industry boundaries.

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Specifically, in order to promote the composition of collaborative projects with highly synergistic effects by utilizing attractive content, we will support matching among diverse related businesses, including measure to strengthen the support of the Cool Japan Organization.

21. 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 on establishing various working modes 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.

22. Establishing the world’s major financial and capital market

In order to position Japan as the center of financial and capital operations in Asia, we will create an active financial and capital market that ensures fair competition conditions and enables companies to carry our vital economic actions and appropriate national assets. First of all, while considering the structure of the Japanese economy after deflation, we will establish a virtuous circle for financial and practical economies to create mutual value-added businesses and will develop human resources as well as an appropriate business environment to realize the world’s leading international financial

center. In doing so, we seek to achieve sustainable growth in the real estate investment market by expanding the target assets of real estate funds, such as JREIT.

Therefore, we will advance “portfolios and rebalancing” for long-term diversification of investments and also encourage environmental investment to contribute to the formation of medium to long-term stable assets of citizens. As part of these efforts, we promote the utilization of the NISA system (tax-exempt measures for gains by transfer of dividends on equity investment up to 120.000 Yen per year (maximum of 600.000 Yen) and the “Junior NISA” (same system but: 80.000 yen per year (maximum of 400.000 yen) to respond to “stock removals” due to inheritance.

In addition, we will promote the spread of the JPX Nikkei Index 400, the development of new stock indices, establish the “Comprehensive Japan Exchange”, introduce new financial special zones to attract foreign capital and encourage customer-oriented business operations by suppliers (fiduciary duty). We will reinvigorate private financial institutions as well as security markets and strengthen the asset management of the market. 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.

23. Promoting a corporate governance reform

Based on the fiduciary responsibilities to shareholders by listed companies, we will promote sustainable growth by developing a sound entrepreneurial spirit as a “Corporate Governance Code” and principles for institutional investors “Stewardship Code” to realize effective corporate governance functions. By doing so, we aim to improve the lives of our citizens by realizing a virtuous economic cycle via improved corporate values and expanded investor returns. Therefore, we will actively disseminate and secure both codes and promote the further enhancement of corporate governance of all listed companies.

By creating an integrated disclosure system and interactive shareholder meetings, we will develop an environment for companies and investors to meet for constructive dialogues.

24. Creating appropriate, fair and transparent financial markets

In order to enhance the transparency and fairness of financial markets, we will strengthen the appointment of external financial inspectors (financial experts) and assist investigations of overseas authorities while also enhancing our financial inspection and supervisory system as well as the role of the SESC supervision committee.

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We will secure the reliability of the audit, since it plays an important role in the capital market, by establishing the governance code, strengthening the management of the audit corporation and expanding the disclosure of information so that shareholders can firmly evaluate the auditing.

25. Responding to FinTech

FinTech describes the convergence of financial and IT sectors and we aim to utilize this system, while maintaining the security and safety of users, as a technological innovation in the IT sector to

advance financial services responding to needs of users by strategically incorporating them into the financial sector.

Therefore, we will support partnerships of financial groups and financial-related IT companies, while also developing a system for virtual currencies led by international standards of FinTech. To strengthen the growth potential of the Japanese economy and innovate financial services, we will construct a FinTech system and form a network as an international financial center, based on international standards. We will also improve the environment for open innovations and actively promote the creation and growth of global FinTech in Japan.

In addition, we will promptly realize “financial EDI” and “low-value international remittance” (inexpensive international remittance) which enables the attachment of business flow information to bank remittance. We will also promote a reform of the financial infrastructure by utilizing the block chain technology and cloud funding.

26. Reviewing the operation of public and 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.

27. Improving the legal foundation supporting the international expansion of businesses

In order to strengthen Japan’s international competitiveness by improving the business environment in a global age, we will improve operational laws and judicial relations with other countries, while focusing on Asia, and will therefore actively support the development of a related legal system, including the development of professional personnel as well as the promotion of foreign language translation of laws and regulations, and will thereby support the legal aspects for overseas expansion of Japanese companies and citizens.

28. Promoting active foreign human resources

Since our own labor force has decreased and a large increase of foreign workers is expected, we will develop a system that allows foreign personnel to work properly, since the reliance on Japanese workers alone will cause serious negative impacts on the labor system and the society.

29. Supporting the creation of venture businesses

We regard venture businesses and existing companies as two pillars of economic growth, and we will therefore actively support the further utilization of Japan’s strength, including the angel tax system, to tackle the new challenge of forming a “virtuous cycle of venture creation”.

We will expand the Prime Minister’s initiative “Silicon Valley – Japan Bridge Project” and establish a “Global Bridging Project” that connects the world’s leading bases to support Japanese ventures to compete in the world market.

Additionally, we will support regional ventures that solve regional problems via new technologies and business models, while also realizing a prosperous lifestyle by deregulating the recruitment system. Regarding regional small and medium enterprises, universities and financial institutions, we will create an innovation environment directly linked to ventures.

We will encourage the accelerated creation of R&D venture companies by taking measures to connect research results of universities, public research institutions and social development institutions and will also take advantage of yet unused technology of large companies.

By building on the proclamation of the prime minister on conducting a “venture creation conference” (provisional name), we will link support measures of each ministry and agency concerning ventures and by offering consistent public-private growth funds, we will create a venture environment rooted in Japan. In doing so, we will strictly select the most eye-catching research results.

Therefore, we will also select “good candidates” to promote the creation and growth of venture companies by choosing outstanding and promising development-to-the-finest items.

In 2020, we will invite global investors and entrepreneurs to the “Global Venture Summit” to enable the interaction of economic organizations, ventures and large investor companies during a venture week.

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Regarding the angel tax system, based on the current situation that its dissemination has not yet progressed, we will consider its full utilization by companies working on town development and village revitalization and will simplify its use. We also strongly support the independence (spin-off) of ventures from large companies and second business establishments by small and medium-sized enterprises.

We will continue to further promote the use of cloud funding.

30. Creating new employment by establishing social businesses 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.

31. Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, business restructuring and the reinforcement of conventional industries

To support small and medium enterprises which are strongly affected by the decrease of domestic production bases, the hollowing out of the industry due to a declining domestic purchasing power, the business slump of successive large enterprises and the stagnating domestic demand, it is necessary to eliminate unnecessary in-house departments and to develop new businesses. In order to eliminate unprofitable departments in enterprises, we will strengthen the consultation system of experts for the establishment of new businesses and will establish a framework enabling support funds for small and medium-sized enterprises. 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 work on enhancing 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 relaxed the application requirements for the business succession taxation system by the FY2010 tax reform, but we will additionally forward its utilization by information dissemination. We will examine and verify the evaluation of stocks without trading quotes as soon as possible, while taking further necessary measures. Regarding the taxation of small-scale enterprises, we will consider balancing the taxation of individual business operators, family companies and employees by including the employer compensation system. Furthermore, by thoroughly promoting “founding and second founding”, such as the establishment of small and medium enterprises, we will revitalize foundation education and will therefore support individual business owners with various funding support measures to support business succession and realize increased employment.

32. “From Japan to the world”: supporting the globalization and overseas expansion of small and medium enterprises

There are many companies that are not globalized despite high productivity in Japan, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. The globalization of highly productive and competitive companies will further increase their productivity and eventually promote 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.

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33. Regional development of headquarters and base 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.

34. Support companies to formulate a business continuity plan (BCP)

As a lesson learned from the damage to the supply chain due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, companies will formulate a more effective BCP in preparation for emergency situations and we will continuously improve the support system for the introduction of BCM.

In addition, since the conventional BCP used to be centered around responses to earthquakes, we will provide support to formulate “corporate collaborative BCP/BCM” to replace the former “individual corporate type BCP” as a lesson learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and to maintain the nationwide supply chain and support for disaster-stricken areas.

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.

35. Promotion of practical application of innovative pharmaceuticals and medical equipment

We promote research and development and the dissemination of innovative medicines and medical devices made in Japan, such as regenerative medicine and medical care and nursing care robots. In particular, while fully paying attention the safety and security of medical care, and although the drug lag and device lag have been largely resolved by reforming various regulations and promoting conversion, we will further accelerate the examination process and expand our strategic consultation on medical affairs to realize a “zero” lag. In addition, we are pioneering the world’s first encompassing strategy for innovative pharmaceuticals, medical devices, regenerative medicine products and other disease-related devices (severe or incurable diseases such as rare cancers) and aim for an early practical application 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.

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

In order for the pharmaceutical industry to strengthen its creative power for added-value medicines through innovations and to further contribute to the national medical care, we promote industry-university collaboration and open innovation via the drug discovery support network. We will also

promote the internationalization of the pharmaceutical industry, the use of R&D taxation and advance the introduction and permanent addition of new drugs to the system as a measure to contribute to a stable supply of basic medicines. In addition, we will adhere to a highly transparent drug pricing system based on market prevailing pricing that appropriately reflects the role of generic products. Also, to improve medical efficiency and maintain people's health, we will promote the spread of generic products and promote self-medication (self-health management).

37. 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.

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38. Promoting the international development of medical care

For Japanese pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and medical services to realize international development, we will foster human resources, such as doctors and nurses, in other countries to support the development of the public health insurance system and promote the use of private insurances. In addition to promoting medical-related projects, including the improvement of medical technology and service bases, we will promote international joint clinical research and clinical trials and support efforts such as the simplification of licensing and approval procedures in foreign countries to accelerate the approval medicines and medical devices in Japan.

Furthermore, in order to allow foreign patients to receive medical services in Japan safely and securely, we will enhance the system of accepting foreign patients in medical institutions by employing medical interpreters. We will also create a mechanism for foreign travelers to gain access to information on medical institutions smoothly.

39. Promoting the *monozukuri* of new “products”

In order for the Japanese economy to grow, it is necessary not only to make the best use of the strength of traditional *monozukuri* but also to develop a new way of *monozukuri* in anticipation of people's needs and to enter the world market.

In other words, we believe that not only domestic consumption but also “foreign consumption” will play a part 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.

40. Promoting a touristic nation

We aim for 60 million foreign visitors and 15 trillion Yen revenue by tourists in 2030 and will therefore support public and private initiatives utilizing touristic resources, such as culture and nature the world should be proud of and improve the visiting environment.

We will strategically enhance Japanese touristic businesses by implementing an all-Japan system, that aims for the expansion of local production and consumption and that prioritizes the easing of

visa requirements for Europe, the United States and Australia. We will simplify visa issuance procedures, accelerate immigration reviews, promote interactive international tourism exchange, disseminate multilingual translation, attract international conferences and enhance integrated resorts (IR), such as casinos.

In addition, we will further simplify duty-free procedures for foreign travelers and expand duty-free shops in rural areas while also promoting “hand-held tourism” utilizing home delivery services. In order to respond appropriately to the sudden increase of foreign visitors to Japan, we will resolve the lack of accommodation facilities, alleviate traffic jams concerning charter busses, enhance the CIQ system and improve free public wireless LAN.

Parallely, to revitalize regions via sightseeing, we will promote the creation of a variety of wide-area touristic round-trips itineraries rich in themes, the development of attractive tourist spots and the competitiveness of the tourism industry by developing professional personnel and strengthen the DMO in Japan. In order to eliminate damages to the Tohoku region caused by rumors, we will focus on promoting tourism in affected areas to re-increase the number of foreign and inbound tourists in these regions and Japan in general.

In addition to simplifying the acquisition of vacation, we will concentrate on the creation of sites without electric poles and the creation of landscapes taking historic and cultural assets into consideration while also creating tourist spots utilizing road stations. We will provide easy-to-understand information to encourage a smooth access to Japan by enriching traffic jam countermeasures, establishing open cafés at road stations, promoting environment improvement and taking foreign visitors to remote islands by ferries based on the strategy to achieve 500.000 cruising passenger in 2020. Therefore, we will also promote the emergency maintenance of harbors, upgrade ports to accept international cruisers, improve the environment to enable smooth navigation of cruise ships and expand the sales of local products at cruise docks to position cruising as a “oasis for everyone”.

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41. Implementing accelerated immigration review processes to realize a touristic nation

To respond to the rapidly increasing number of foreign travelers visiting Japan, we will strengthen the personnel and organization structure of immigration control and promote the mechanization of parts of these procedures to accelerate immigration reviews.

42. Revitalizing the real estate market

In order to revitalize the real estate and second-hand housing market based on the “Recommendations to Activate the Second-Hand Housing Market” compiled by our party in June last year, we promote the utilization of inspections before transactions and the construction of a comprehensive database for real estates. We additionally develop a market environment for consumers to trade with confidence by establishing an appropriate building evaluation.

In addition, we support the renovation of unused real estates, including vacant housings and stores nationwide. Furthermore, we will advance the overseas development of the Japanese real estate industry.

By utilizing private funds and other means, we will work on revitalizing the real estate investment market, including real estates in local cities, and promote energy-saving and disaster-resistant office buildings to form a high-quality real estate stock. Therefore, we will encourage market revitalization and investment aid by enhancing institutional aspects to support the real estate market and realize a virtuous circle that also contributes to the revitalization of the Japanese economy. Furthermore, we will enhance the transparency of the real estate investment market, diversify real estate investment targets and promote the involvement of regional financial institutions.

43. Becoming a nation of “scientific and technological innovation”

We will fundamentally strengthen our policies on scientific and technological innovations, including the enhancement of human resources, budget and institutions, to become the “nation most suitable for innovations in the world”. We will formulate policies regarding regulatory reforms on security, diplomacy, economy and fiscal soundness as a comprehensive strategy for scientific and technological innovations led by the official residence of the Prime Minister as commanding center. Therefore, we will steadily implement wide-ranging measures stipulated by the “Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan” (established by the Cabinet in January 2016), which acts as a compass for all policies on scientific and technological innovations for the next five years. In particular, while foreign countries have greatly increased investments in science and technology, the budget of our nation has been stagnating in recent years and there is a strong sense of danger of losing our position as a scientifically and technologically advanced nation. Therefore, based on the new basic plan, we plan to strategically allocate 26 trillion yen of R&D investment or 4% of the public and private sector as well as 1% of the GDP as governmental R&D investment as an annual budget coordinated by the official residence of the Prime Minister.

Regarding research fraud, we will promote unremitting efforts to ensure effective responses by clarifying rules in advance to support the challenges of researchers.

44. Strengthening the function of the “commanding center” as a powerful driving force for science and technology policies

In order for Japan, a resource-scarce nation, to realize future economic growth and social development, it is vital to strongly promote innovations.

Therefore, in order to promote science and technology, which is the forefront of our national economy, as a national strategy, we will strengthen the function of the “commanding center” regarding integrated scientific and technological innovations based on the “Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan” and work on promoting efficient and effective policies in cooperation with related ministries to eliminate double-policing and to become the “nation most suitable for innovation in the world”. We will also promote the “Strategic Innovation Creation Program” (SIP) that selects important issues based on the “Integrated Scientific and Technological Innovation Conference” and takes actions beyond the framework of ministries or councils, while conducting basic examinations (commercialization, practical application).

Also, in the future, we intend to strengthen the authority of the Prime Minister on political decisions and scientific advice on scientific and technological innovation policies and will strengthen the

cooperation among ministries related to innovations by proceeding with elimination the vertical division. Furthermore, for example, Japan plays a leading role in accelerating technological projects on iPS cell research and large-scale projects on elementary particle physics, ILC (International Linear Collider Institute Construction), regenerative medicine and environmental technology. We will promote these strong fields as a national strategy to forecast and countermeasure fluctuations and collect knowledge of the industry and academia on priority fields, such as innovative energy generation, energy conservation and energy storage.

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45. Promoting efforts to create a future society

Information technology has globally developed and the interest in artificial intelligence technologies, such as deep learning, is steadily growing and this technology is said to be the biggest breakthrough in the last 50 years, and it is already used in various places in Japan. Our nation needs to create a new image of our future society by strategically promoting research and development in key fields for the growth of our future society. One of these fields is the “super smart society (Society 5.0)” and in order to realize it, we will encourage consistent R&D on the social application of artificial intelligence, big data, IoT and cyber security in the next ten years and beyond. To develop innovative achievements in artificial intelligence based on R&D, which will create new value-added products and services, we will construct an economic and social system utilizing the combination of the knowledge of humanities and social science on artificial intelligence technology and we will therefore promote the training of related personnel such as data scientists or cyber security specialists. Aside from R&D on innovative artificial intelligence technology, big data, IoT, cyber security and other information science technologies, we will also enhance research on robot technology, nanotechnological material and photon science technology as the foundation of creating our future society. Furthermore, we will actively provide support for challenging research and development via the Innovative Research and Development Support Program (ImPACT)”.

46. Promoting basic research and advancing the success of young researchers

Since 2000, Japan has achieved the world’s second largest number of Nobel laureates, following the United States. We will continue to create such breakthrough research results and will further strengthen academic and basic research as the source of innovation. Therefore, we will expand the scientific research grant subsidy project for research conductors based on the spontaneity and originality of researchers, while we will also undertake fundamental reforms. In addition, we will significantly expand competitive funds while ensuring their diversity and continuity. At the same time, we will further raise all competitive funds to cover 30% of the indirect expenses. Also, we will take measures to ensure that basic expenditures, such as administrative expenses, of universities, national research institutes and development corporations are properly covered to support research. Additionally, we are promoting the “World Premier International Research Center (WPI)” and other large-scale projects to realize the world’s highest-level research environment that will attract excellent researchers from Japan and foreign countries and we will further develop the formation of

an international network. Parallely, we will greatly expand our support for research in the field of human and social sciences by training excellent human resources to win the Nobel economic award. We will reform the structure of universities, including the university personnel system, to develop and secure talented young researchers and to ensure the diversity of scientific and technological innovation human resources, including research management personnel. We will promote the development of human resources with social and corporate sensibility, enhance the support for female researchers and further develop human resources responsible for the next generation. We will also promote the support for overseas researchers and the admission of excellent foreign researchers. We will develop cutting-edge research facilities, such as the world's most advanced supercomputer and large synchrotron radiation facilities, and promote the broadened cooperation of the industry, academia and government concerning these facilities.

47. Strengthening R&D capabilities

We will foster excellent researchers in charge of innovative research, expand our permanent financial support for graduate students, actively promote the introduction of medium to long-term internships and stable career paths for researchers, establish research management and administrative staff with managerial talent and train professional “eye-catching” human resources.

48. Responding to important economic, social and national issues

We will encourage R&D aimed at ensuring a stable and efficient energy, resource and food supply by supporting research and development on energy conservation technologies, highly efficient and low-cost renewable energy technology, hydrogen generators and energy storages. We will furthermore promote R&D on the highly efficient fossil fuel use and research contributing to the use of nuclear power via innovative technologies such as nuclear fusion. Also, regarding climate change and its impact, we will assess measures to support R&D on related technologies, create and information infrastructure to utilize global environmental information, such as big data, to solve economic and social issues and promote the development of innovative energy devices.

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By encouraging open research, we will set up a Health and Medical Strategy Promotion Headquarters to realize a healthy and long-living society and will therefore focus on the National Japan Medical Research and Development Organization to utilize our strengths to the fullest. Also, we will encourage the development of innovative drugs and medical equipment and the creation of medical technology development bases to realize the world's most advanced medical treatment, including regenerative medicine and medical care for cancer, dementia or mental illnesses. We will also enhance R&D on aging to impede becoming a super-aging society and the emergence as well as reemergence of infectious and intractable diseases.

Regarding the prevention of large-scale natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods or landslides, we will advance integral measures for the observation, forecasting and countering of disasters to reduce the damage. In addition, concerning countermeasures on space, marine, cyberspace and terroristic disasters, we will strengthen our responses to national security,

including national security research with reference to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DAPRA) who gave rise to the internet and GPS. Since the results of security research can also be used in society, Japan will also strengthen its R&D support (high-risk research support) for so-called dual use technologies. Therefore, we will select innovative research topics expected to have a great long-term impact by expanding the “Innovative Research and Development Support Program” (ImPACT) as a mechanism to boldly advance creative research under the leadership of this program.

49. System reform to create sustainable innovation

To be able to respond to the global trends of open innovation, organizations and sectors, it is essential to build a sustainable national innovation system that promotes borderless research activities and corporate activities. Therefore, we will promote the consolidation of reliable wide-ranging entities such as universities, public research institutes and companies and will form the “Industry-Academic Co-Creation Base” to enable the merging of basic research, application and development.

In addition, in order to create regional innovations, we will support the matching of small and medium-sized enterprises with local and national universities and will offer incentives for research and commercialization by establishing a research complex centered around universities, research institutions and corporations and will realize local creation by promoting the regional driving force on scientific and technological innovations.

We will steadily promote reforms of national public and private universities playing a central role in human resource development and academic research and will also ensure the coverage of basic expenses by offering subsidies for operational expenses, facility maintenance and private schools. Regarding national universities in particular, in addition to implementing university reforms, such as strengthening their functions based on the three priorities support framework of subsidies for operational expenses and strengthening financial foundations, we will support universities conducting outstanding education and research activities by establishing the “designated national university system” and thereby realizing the world’s highest level of research and education.

We will enhance the basic expenses of the National Research and Development Corporation whose mission is to maximize research results and to promote the formation of innovation hubs by strengthening the cooperative function (“bridging”) of the industry, academia and government. We will also conduct system reforms to reassess regulations currently interfering with technological research activities. Especially, based on our national strategy to create the worldwide top-level research results, we will establish a “designated national research and development corporation” as an effective institution to create the world’s best research results and as a core institution leading our innovation system.

In addition, we will carry out tax reforms, such as the research and development taxation and donation taxation, for related institutions to promote innovation, while also implementing our policy on finance reform to realize a stable supply of risk money to commercialize innovative technologies and enhance the support for ventures. Since intellectual property is the bottleneck of innovation, we will also reform the intellectual property system to promote the prompt protection of intellectual property by revising the smooth utilization of patents, regulations and the related social system.

Parallely, we will strongly promote government procurement and the collaboration of the industry, academia and government. Regarding small and medium enterprises, we will steadily encourage international standardization via public-private partnerships as the driving force to activate the acquisition of international standards. Also, we will support overseas export and deployment activities via public-private partnerships to achieve the construction, operation and contribution to human resource training as an integrated system for Japan's core infrastructure for advanced research and technology.

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50. Promoting technology to become the foundation of the toughening, safety and security of our nation

To ensure the safety and security of our nation, long-term R&D on technologies for the observation, prediction and mitigation of natural disasters, countermeasure technology, such as marine area surveillance technology, marine resource research technology, space exploitation technology (unmanned and manned explorations, such as the "Hayabusa 2"), next-generation rockets, satellite technology, nuclear fusion technology (ITER plan), supercomputers as well as climate change prediction and impact assessment technologies are essential but difficult to achieve by private companies alone. 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.

In addition, Japan's strong fields, such as nanotechnology, material science technology and energy storage technology, are the key to support Japan's core industries and we will strongly promote research on material development and devices to enable the utilization of GAN all over Japan as the foundation of various fields of applied research.

51. Developing a strategic science and technology diplomacy

We will work on both "diplomacy for science and technology" as well as "science and technology for diplomacy" to actively utilize scientific and technological innovations for peaceful and economic diplomacy. Therefore, it is necessary to develop multilayered collaborations with developed countries, emerging countries and developing countries, promote collaborative research to solve serious problems occurring on a global scale, such as natural disasters or infectious diseases, and we will support the cooperation on scientific and technological innovations and human resource development via ODA. Especially regarding emerging and developing countries, we will establish a framework for new cooperation with synergies for the receiving countries and mutual benefits.

Also, under the leadership of Science and Technology Advisers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we will set the agenda and policy guidance at international conferences on scientific and technological innovations, while also attracting and hosting international conferences, to strengthen the international network.

We will furthermore enhance the international network by dispatching and inviting outstanding young researchers and building research bases in Japan and abroad. Furthermore, in addition to establishing a system to collect and analyze overseas trends, we will strengthen the management of security-related technologies. We will actively utilize Japan's technology and thereby contribute to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

52. Promoting a strategic space policy

In order to secure the international presence and national interests of our nation, and based on the Basic Space Act, we will realize a powerful Japan by "ensuring space security", "promoting the utilization of the space for consumers", securing the necessary budget and developing the required transportation and satellites system, including rocket bases, under the three pillars of our strategy to "strengthen the industrial, scientific and technological infrastructure".

The development of our space system will be arranged based on the objections of the "Basic Universe Law". In particular, we will implement strategic space policies and priority projects, such as resource allocation projects, to strongly promote the development and use of the space by creating a rocket transportation and satellite system, including its maintenance and operation. 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.

53. Developing the H3 rocket

In order to secure the autonomy of Japan's space activities and maintain our industrial base, an international competitive space transportation system is required. Therefore, the public and private sector will cooperate to develop the H3 rocket as a comprehensive system integrating rocket aircraft and terrestrial systems at the Tanegashima Space Center. We aim to launch the H3 rocket for the first time in 2020.

54. Enhancing the functions of information gathering satellites

Based on the policy decision on the national security of Japan, we aim to strengthen the intelligence functions of the airframe system and related organizations and we will therefore review measures to secure financial resource and strive to add ten others to the five information gathering satellites.

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55. Establishing a system of seven semi-zenith satellites

We will enhance the Japan-US satellite positioning consultation to contribute to the security cooperation of Japan and the United States and the security of the Asia-Oceania region by utilizing the semi-zenith satellite system as Japan's own positioning infrastructure.

In addition, by fundamentally strengthening the development and operation of the four-satellite system until 2018, we will create new services and businesses, such as automatic positioning agricultural machinery, smart forestry, advanced unmanned aircraft cargo transportation and disaster prevention systems.

Based on the importance of the semi-zenith satellite system, we are planning to reduce the development and operation costs to achieve a seven-satellites system in 2023 that enables sustained positioning independent of GPS.

56. Promoting measures to enhance space security

We will establish early warning satellites to grasp the space situation (SSA) and marine situation (MDA) and thereby ensure space security.

57. Enhancing the international competitiveness and new businesses in the space industry

Since space industry undergoes a rapid market expansion and the intensification of competition is anticipated in the future, we formulated a vision of Japan's space industry for the future our space equipment and thereby aim to become the world's leading space nation while also mobilizing the power of SMEs and young people via governmental support efforts to strengthen the international competitiveness of the Japanese space industry.

In addition, by utilizing the "Space New Business Creation Network" (S-NET) aiming to match space-related and other companies, we aim to create new space ventures, promote new business models and develop new technological innovations.

We will also utilize our nation's diplomacy and excellent commerce tools to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations between emerging space countries in Asia or the Middle East and Japan and thereby aim to develop a space system market, including space technology, human resources, equipment and services.

58. Promoting the expansion of the space industry and space utilization by enforcing tow space laws

By enforcing the "Law on the Launching and Management of Artificial Satellites" submitted to the National Assembly in March, we will improve the examination system by assessing various regulations for launches and will quickly develop a business environment for private enterprises to enter the rocket launch market, that continues to expand worldwide.

At the same time, we will support the creation of high-tech goods and the power of small and medium-sized enterprises while aiming to enhance the lineup and to drastically reduce launch costs by not only developing the H3 rocket and epsilon rocket but also reusable rockets and LNG rockets. Via these efforts, we intend to realize international competitive satellite launch services and fortify our security capabilities.

Similarly, we submitted the "Law on Securing the Proper Handling of Satellite Remote Records" to the National Assembly and will thereby promote the image sales business in Japan by enforcing the examination system and the advancement of the satellite operation in Japan.

In addition, we will expand the space industry by supporting the development of next-generation satellites, such as advanced optical satellites and radar satellites and the expansion of data utilization.

59. Promoting strategic space science exploration

Based on the strategic and diplomatic importance of the space development and utilization strategy, Japan will play a leading role in space science and space exploration. Therefore, we will enable the

world's first achievements in returning samples of the "RYUGU" asteroid by "Hayabusa 2" via international cooperation.

60. Promoting the international space station project and international space exploration

The International Space Station (ISS) program of our nation is a project of unprecedented scale in human history.

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It is positioned as a symbol of international cooperation and Japan decided to participate in the extension of the ISS operation in December 2015. Activities of Japanese astronauts and their contribution to the ISS, like the space station refueling machine "Konomori" (HTV) are widely regarded as inspirations for dreams and hopes of our citizens.

We will continue to actively promote the ISS project and will take initiatives to make full use of our strengths, such as hosting the 2nd International Space Exploration Forum on the future challenges of humanity's space exploration.

61. 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 is 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.

Due to the rapid development of the international situation around the North Pole, we developed "Japan's Arctic Strategy" to promote our strengths of science and technology as major aspects of resolving Arctic problems and we will thereby actively fulfill our leading role in efforts of the international community about the North Pole.

62. 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.

63. Promoting the ICT conversion of the whole society

ICT has dramatically improved the convenience of people's lives, including streamlining businesses and improved services in various fields. Since industries will become globalized in the future, we

will further advance the ICT conversion to boost the productivity of industries, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas.

We will further develop the world's highest-level ICT infrastructure for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo and will promote the "ICT conversion of the whole society" to enable each citizen, foreign national, rural enterprise and rural residents to receive the benefits of ICT and will not let disparities in the educational, medical or industrial sector arise. In addition, regarding higher education, we will enhance our graduate schools of mathematics, information and related subjects and thereby develop human resources supporting the ICT society.

64. Utilizing ITS technology

Via public-private partnerships, we are working on the practical application of automatic driving, labor-saving truck logistics, since the serious shortage in drivers progresses, and the improvement of map data by utilizing ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) technology. Parallely, we will promote automated driving and thereby realize the world's safest, eco-friendliest and most efficient road traffic and society as soon as possible.

65. Improving the convenience of the lives of citizens via the ICT conversion

To improve the efficient electricity supply, we will introduce smart grid and create smart cities, facilitate traffic with ITS, utilize big data for the management and innovation of regional buses, use automobile-related information, introduce e-government to realize electronic local governments, improve the management and utilization of health by providing medical and nursing care data, promote the ICT conversion of education, introduce programming education, improve the Wi-Fi environment, enhance the traceability of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and improve the productivity of industries and value-added products. By utilizing the G-space project, we will secure water resources and enhance resource exploration via remote sensing. We will also promote the dissemination of multilingual translations, super-high definition 4K and 8K televisions, digital signage and the advanced use of robots and drones. We will achieve all of these objectives by strongly advertising the utilization of ICT.

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66. Presenting success models of ICT development

We will promptly bolster the presentation and standardization of new success models by expanding our ICT investment on teleworking and telemedicine contributing to the expansion of employment and the sophistication of medical, emergency and nursing care and the solving of various problems and health issues.

67. Promoting telework

Due to the spread of telework, which is a flexible way of using ICT for effective work regardless of time and place, we are working on a reform to improve the work-life balance and productivity. Since our party has been working on realizing policies based on recommendations since May 2014, we have enabled local residents to work the same way as urban residents and parallely created a flow of work and people from urban areas to rural areas. After implementing "home town telework" on May 11th this years, we are compiling new recommendation "to realize an efficient and diverse

working style of teleworking”. Based on our goal to achieve a society with 100 million active people, we will further promote the spread of teleworking, also to realize local revitalization.

68. Dissemination of 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.

69. Promoting education on information literacy

Since the utilization of the internet spreads to all sectors, it is vital for the public to acquire the ability to handle information correctly, and we will therefore implement information literacy education and various related education activities at schools, PTA and regional companies.

70. Promoting the collaboration with the Government CIO (Cabinet/Chief Information and Communication Officer)

We will cooperate with institutions on open data to provide various information held by the government, while fully considering the protection of personal information, to realize the world’s top-level open governance. 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.

In addition, we aim to reduce the operational costs by 30% by reducing the number of government systems and converting them to cloud government information systems while also facilitating work-life balance. Regarding local governments, we aim to double cloud-based municipalities, and will achieve mainly cloud municipalities via the progress of the “Government Information System Reform Roadmap” to promote the information system reform of local governments and reduce the operational costs by 30%.

71. Establishing the Basic Law on Promoting Data Utilization

By establishing basic principles concerning the utilization of public and private data, we will clarify the responsibilities of national and local public entities as well as business operators and establish comprehensive and systematic measures and policies related to the utilization of public and private data. We will formulate the “Basic Law on Promoting Data Utilization” (provisional name) which will contribute to the realization of a digital society by solving social problems and creating new industries so that citizens can live safely, securely and comfortably.

72. Restructuring the regulatory system to create a data-driven society

In order to quickly create new innovations on the premise of data utilization, it is vital to fundamentally review the related regulatory system to deal with a new era. Therefore, we have newly established a commanding center for the regulatory reform to realize a data-driven society and will

promptly implement necessary regulatory reforms after conducting a comprehensive inspection of the existing system.

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73. Promoting cyber security and growth

We will support the development of human resources related to cyber security via practical education conducted by the collaboration of universities and industries.

74. Enhancing the cyber security insurance system

Cyber-crimes (accidents/damage) cannot be prevented since they are similar to traffic accidents and they will pose an increased social problem in the future. There is also the risk that primary victims will be charged with liability for secondary victims. We will promote an insurance system, not only for large companies and the supply chain, but also for the improved security level of SMEs.

75. Strengthening the international competitiveness of our 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.

However, compared to the United States or South Korea, innovation and utilization of ICT in our nation is currently not necessarily proceeding smoothly, so in order for Japan to become the world's most advanced ICT nation, we need to carry out strategic advancement initiatives.

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.

Furthermore, regarding the remarkable development of mobile phones, we will encourage research and development as well as international standardization to realize the fifth-generation mobile communication system (5G) in 2020. We will promote comprehensive demonstration tests and practical application of 5G to meet the new needs created by IoT.

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.

76. Supporting the overseas expansion of the high-quality ICT infrastructure

In order to achieve significant growth in Japan, it is important to aggressively incorporate the vital infrastructure demand in Asia or Latin America. In addition to posing an important infrastructure system, ICT itself can be combined with the public infrastructures, including bridges and roads, to improve durability and demand forecasting. Therefore, JICT (overseas telecommunication, broadcasting and postal service assistance organization) is in charge of high-quality infrastructure utilizing the characteristics and strengths of Japan's ICT, such as terrestrial digital broadcasting, postal mail, disaster prevention, security and satellites. We will also aggressively utilize top sales and public-private partnerships to support the overseas expansion of motivated private companies.

77. Promoting temporal growth by ICT conversion

We will optimize the ICT investment to advance the analysis of big data in industrial sectors, including agriculture and tourism and enhance marketing by establishing open data in the governmental and public services. We will stimulate economic growth by creating advanced ICT and the development of sophisticated ICT human resources in various fields, leading to the ICT conversion of the whole society.

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78. Supporting the fourth industrial revolution (IoT/AI/BD)

The world is about to enter the "era of IoT, big data and AI", which is said to be the fourth industrial revolution. In order to be able to respond quickly to this trend, we will support research and development and take measures to encourage new investment and employment in the field of next-generation artificial intelligence. At the same time, we will support the creation of new IoT services by utilizing test beds and data centers.

79. Social implementation of IoT, big data and artificial intelligence

Taking major reforms of IoT, big data and artificial intelligence into account, in addition to automatic driving and smart factories, we will create an environment to boldly work on the world's most advances social implementation and realize convenient low-cost services, such as regional points utilizing block chains. We will also expand the activities of the IoT Promotion Consortium to support the overseas expansion and creation of innovative business models and new industrial groups.

80. Constructing an IoT service platform

In order to achieve domestic goals, such as full employment, local creation, town toughening, agricultural revitalization and smart cities, we will develop not only an effective vertical but also a horizontal platform. Since Japan is lagging a few years from the West in this aspect, we will urgently create a Japanese version of an IoT service platform for each sector in an all-Japan system to form an environment for both local industries and venture companies. We also promote the export of new infrastructure systems via TPP.

81. Social implementation of IoT security

Since IoT devices connecting a vast number of sensors is a specialty of Japan, and from the viewpoint of promoting industrial security, we will urgently establish a gateway security technology as well as security measures for the social implementation of IoT devices and cyberspace devices.

82. Enhancing embedded system related industries

Based on the fact that in the IoT era products and systems are connected via networks, it is important to enhance the “brain” of these products (embedded system) that controls the electronic software (embedded software) to improve the convenience, safety and competitiveness of products. Therefore, we will develop industrial strategies related to embedded software and promote human resource development, technological strengthening, standardization and industrial upgrading via industry-academia-government cooperation.

83. Activating the use of personal data

Based on the Personal Information Protection Law, we will actively promote the utilization of anonymously processing systems and establish a legislation to simplify the collection of personal information in important sectors, such as health and medical care. In addition, we will examine the introduction of the personal data portability system by clarifying the responsibilities of companies based on the burden of application and social demands.

84. Formulating a technical growth strategy for Japan

To aggressively incorporate a new data management transformation due to the emergence of distributed computing, we formulated a technical growth strategy to make full use of the strengths of Japanese companies and establish an investment policy our IT industry.

85. Promoting the G-space project (geospatial information) to create new industries

In order to realize a G-space society, we will expand the competences of the government and the industry-academia-government collaboration, while also promoting the utilization of information generated by the semi-zenith satellite system that autonomously sustains its position and will realize new industries and services in various fields, such as disaster prevention, agriculture or transportation. In addition, by providing G-space social infrastructure technologies as a package to other countries, we will contribute to the international community, including developing countries and also contribute to the economic growth of our own nation.

Specifically, in order to strengthen Japan’s industrial competitiveness, we will establish electronic reference points abroad and support the utilization of projects using semi-zenith satellites.

86. Securing resources and maritime disaster prevention system via the G-space project

Japan is a large nation with the sixth largest exclusive economic zone in the world. Based on the “Basic Law of the Sea”, “Basic Law of the Universe” and the “Basic Law for Promoting the Geospatial Information Utilization”, we strive to secure resources by grasping the terrain of Japan’s waters in meters and accurately locate possible energy, metal and fisheries resources in the deep sea.

In addition, by developing a system to constantly monitor the movement of the ocean bed plate and the height of tsunamis in the sea in centimeters, we will use advanced technology for the prediction, detection and mitigation of disasters, such as tsunamis and earthquakes.

Fiscal reconstruction

87. Reforming the financial structure for the next generation

After the government change in December 2012, we reviewed the swollen expenditures due to the political influence of the Democratic Party's administration, including the "natural increase" of social security expanses. To achieve efficient expenditures and steady fiscal rebuilding, we halved the national and local deficit ratio to the GDP in FY2015 and increased the primary balance to the level of FY2010.

In the future, we will continue to adhere to the goal of creating a profitable national and local primary balance by FY2020 and aim to steadily lower the debt ratio to the GDP.

To achieve this, our party intensively debated an "economic" fiscal rehabilitation plan in June last year that entails a standard expenditure level based on our "responsibility for the next generation". We will continue to verify cost effectiveness, eliminate squandering and promote the efficiency and prioritizing of expenditures.

In addition, since we can flexibly respond by our fiscal policy, we aim to increase tax revenues by implementing policies aiming at the growth of the Japanese economy and focusing on the allocation of funds to our growth strategies and disaster prevention.

Furthermore, in order to achieve both the realization of set targets and the implementation of new measures, we will establish the principle of securing permanent financial resources for new policies, while taking the impact on future growth into consideration.

88. Securing the stability of the government bond market

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 implementing appropriate government bond management policies, we will also assume all risks and prevent "x-day" from occurring when government bond prices could collapse.

89. Drastic reform of the tax system to realize a secure society

Our party has already adopted the principle of a drastic tax system reform, including the raising of the consumption tax, in the general election in August 2009 and the House of Representatives election in July 2010 and we have clarified our stance in the "basic principles on the tax system revision".

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.

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.

(Timing of the raised consumption tax and its use)

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.

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In order to balance economic revitalization and fiscal consolidation, we will raise the consumption tax rate from 8 to 10% in October 2019.

Especially, since we can flexibly respond to fiscal issues from 2014 and beyond, we will realize the growth of the Japanese economy by focusing on the allocation of funds for growth areas and strategies as well as disaster prevention.

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.

(Consideration for low-income people and small and medium-sized enterprises)

As we consider low-income earners regarding the consumption tax rise, we will introduce a consumption tax reduction system in October 2019. As a result, even after the consumption tax rate (standard tax rate) has been raised to 10%, the applicable tax rate for food and beverages, excluding alcoholic beverages and eating out, and the periodical subscription fee for certain newspapers will remain unchanged by 8% (reduced tax rate).

In order to smoothly introduce the reduced tax rate system without confusion, we will proceed with thorough preparations. Especially for business operators, since it is necessary to review various administrative tasks and structural rebuilding for the introduction of the reduced tax rate system, we will carefully respond to the society, disseminate information and establish a consultation system in

addition to setting up financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises. Furthermore, we will take necessary measures to verify the preparation and restructuring status of business operators.

By introducing the reduced tax system, while still maintaining fiscal consolidation goals, we will secure stable permanent financial resources from revenues and align expenditures in view of the “integral reform of the social security and tax system”.

In addition, regarding the raising of the consumption tax rate, it is vital that small and medium-sized enterprises can smoothly and appropriately pass on the changed consumption taxes. Therefore, while raising the consumption tax rate to 10%, we will continue to respond appropriately according to the Law on Special Measures Against Consumption Tax Transferring.

(Considering the general lives of citizens)

Regarding the tax system, including consumption tax on medical treatment, which is scheduled to be raised to 10%, consideration will be given to the burden of the purchasing taxation of medical institutions and patients, and while ensuring fairness and transparency of the burden of stakeholders, we will accurately grasp the actual situation to take appropriate measures. Concerning tax measures, we will examine the payment of medical insurance fees, consider the opinions of health insurers and comprehensively consider the particularly high burden on expensive facilities and will thereafter draw conclusions.

We will continue to provide and significantly expand social benefits, tax breaks and tax exemptions for low-income families.

Regarding personal income taxation, it is necessary to comprehensively reconsider various deductions and tax rate restructuring by objectively examining tax revenues. In consideration of young people and low-income groups, it is essential to improve the income redistribution function while reviewing individual deductions and we will proceed to examine the construction of a mechanism that takes work adjustment of women who want to work into consideration. Regarding women carrying out their female fulfillment at home and in communities, it is necessary to properly evaluate their role, to support the formation of families in the whole society and to organize this in relation with expenditure countermeasures, such as in-kind benefits, while also incorporating the tax system for child rearing support.

By boldly promoting growth-oriented corporate tax reforms and reforming the corporate taxation structure to broaden the burden sharing, we will realize the target of an effective corporate tax rate of 20% in the second year of the reform. By steadily implementing this reform, we will facilitate investment expansion and wage increases in companies and will ensure a virtuous economic circle.

Regarding the taxation of vehicles, based on the ruling party's tax reform outline of 2014, we will abolish the automobile acquisition tax when the consumption tax rate reaches 10% and will advance the greening function of the automobile tax and light vehicle tax by introducing an environmental performance ratio.

In terms of the environmental performance ratio, we will use fuel consumption standards as tax rate classifications to encourage the acquisition of cars and will try to reduce the financial burden by abolishing the automobile acquisition tax and introducing an environmental performance ratio.

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The tax rate classification for environmental performance will be reviewed every two years based on the trends in technological developments and the impact on local finances.

In addition, we will consider the system to complement the environmental performance ratio via special greening exemption for light automobile and minicar taxes after introducing the environmental performance ratio and will draw concrete conclusions afterwards.

By converting the automobile weight tax to the eco car tax, we will review tax breaks and establish a structure continually encouraging the spread of automobiles with better fuel performance, and since the fuel efficiency level is improving every year, we will consider the ruling party tax reform outline from 2015 and draw concrete conclusions. In doing so, we will include the causes of burden, burden of beneficiaries and the nature into the ruling party tax reform outline.

Furthermore, taking the trend of the hoarding and recoil before and after rise of the consumption tax rate to 10% into consideration as well as the global environment, we will balance the taxation of registered cars and minicars as well as administrative services related to cars. In order to reduce the financial burden on drivers and enhance greening, we will secure necessary financial resources and will comprehensively examine the reduction of the tax burden on car owners while paying attention not to affect local finances.

Regarding the local taxation system, we will protect the tax revenue from being subject to economic fluctuation, stabilize revenues and establish a mechanism to create more even tax sources in order to promote decentralization. Specifically, as part of the drastic reform of the tax system, including the corporate tax and consumption tax, we will reduce the tax rate of the corporate enterprise revenue tax for large corporations and broaden external standard taxation. In October 2019, in accordance with the raise of the regional consumption tax, we will abolish special local corporation taxes and the concession tax while further advancing the allocation of corporate and resident taxes.

Regarding the tobacco tax, we will conduct a comprehensive examination of the relation of tobacco and health and will also examine the impact on tobacco farmers and retail shops.

Regarding liquor taxes, to realize the fairness of tax burdens among similar liquors and based on the severe fiscal situation, we will position alcoholic beverages as financial goods and will review the reduction or elimination of tax rate disparities among alcoholic beverages belonging to the same classification. In doing so, and in order to mitigate the influence of consumer and product development of alcoholic beverages, we decided to carry out the simplification of the tax rate structure in different stages in a certain period of time and will review the definition of each alcoholic beverage. Also, the Basic Law on Alcohol Health Practice was enacted in June 2014.

In order to promote low carbonization, we promote the greening of the entire tax system.

By promoting forest maintenance and timber use not only to prevent global warming, but also for the conservation of our national land, we will create rural areas as comfortable living environment and these effects will be widely beneficial to each citizen. However, fundamental problems accumulated over the years due to the fatigue of forestry and mountain villages, such as the difficulty to identify forest owners and unknown boundaries at forestry sites, which we need to overcome.

Therefore, we will promote forestry policies mainly by municipalities after taking the necessary measures to strengthen the role of municipalities concerning forest maintenance and carry out measures to train human resource to enhance local forests and forestry. As a necessary resource for this, we will implement new mechanisms, such as a tax system (forest environmental tax (provisional name) that distribute the burden equally on citizens in urban and local areas and we will encourage local governments to devote themselves to resources, such as a continuous and stable forest development by municipalities. We will judge these measures appropriately over time.

Based on the “Law on Specific Identity Numbers for Administrative Procedures” promulgated in May 2013 (also known as the My Number Law) to enhance the convenience of citizens and tax payment procedures, we will try to improve social security services, including pensions, by using the My Number system and further optimize income taxation. Since the My Number system has started in January 2016, we will realize a fair taxation by further promoting the smooth and appropriate use of the My Number while promoting the digitalization of the tax system, and will further improve the convenience of citizens by omitting attached documents on the income taxation and various other administrative procedures.

Jointly, the government CIO (Chief Information and Communication Officer) supervises the safety of the information system of the whole government in cooperation with the NISC (Cabinet Secretariat Information Security Center) and we thereby strive to build a more efficient, reliable and economical system.

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By introducing personal number cards, we will enable private business operator to receive a future-proof and extensible mechanism and will conduct research on the use of smartphone and biometrics. 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.

90. Smooth introduction and expanded use of the My Number system

By setting the My Number cards as the foundation for identity verification, we will temporarily hand over the cards to applicants free of charge, and at the same time construct an immediate confirmation system for health insurance qualifications in 2016 to integrate existing cards, such as the health insurance cards, and promote the private use for personal identification by building a common information infrastructure. Furthermore, by widely utilizing the My Number card’s administrative efficiency, we strive to optimize medical expenses, improve the convenience of citizens and contribute to productivity improvement.

Resources and energy

91. Diversifying the resource and energy supply chain

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 a top priority of Japan, we strive to maximize the introduction of renewable energy, such as sunlight and wind power, and to curb the public burden by energy conservation. In addition, we will work on realizing the "Fukushima New Energy Society Concept" that will make Fukushima a model of a future new energy society.

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 addition, since the recent sharp drop in resource prices has a positive impact on the Japanese economy, and if the resource depreciation continues in the future and resource development investment stagnates, the supply will be tightened when demand expands again and there is a possibility that prices will soar. Therefore, in order to secure stable and inexpensive basic fossil fuels, such as petroleum and coal natural gas, as well as mineral resources from outside of Japan, we will develop a strategic resource diplomacy supported by Japan's state-of-the-art technology. Parallely, we will increase the supply of risk money by policies supporting related organizations and diversifying supply sources to achieve our national interests. We also plan to form an efficient maritime transport network to realize a stable and cheap resource and energy supply.

In addition to efforts to secure fossil fuels, we will utilize our outstanding advanced energy technologies to improve the efficiency of our energy supply and demand in the industrial sector and shift from fuels in the civil transportation sector. Aside from natural gas, which is a gas with low CO₂ emissions, LG gas is the "last fort" of energy supply in the event of a disaster, and we will therefore promote its dissemination as well as the introduction of LP gas bulk and high-efficient gas equipment to promote fuel conversion.

Additionally, gas stations play an important role in securing a stable supply of petroleum products as a "public infrastructure" and we will continue to utilize them to maintain and strengthen the supply chain. In addition, we will support disaster response capabilities, such as securing kerosene delivery in depopulated areas, promoting the installation of in-house generators and strengthening the management foundation.

92. Promoting the development of domestic resources and efforts towards industrialization

Since Japan is resource scarce nation, we will further promote the cooperation system of the industry, academia and government to develop domestic energy resources and promote voluntary exploitation. We will strategically proceed with steadily securing rare earths and rare metals, which are indispensable for developing and manufacturing international competitive high-tech products.

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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 the possibility of exploration has been pointed out. In addition to promoting exploration, we will also promote the development of exploitation bases on remote islands. We also stimulate the development of marine resource survey technologies, such as high-performance sensors and unmanned probes, to accelerate the development of marine resources, including methane hydrate and hydrothermal remains.

On the other hand, due to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, our dependency on thermal power plants is currently increasing. We strive to realize more diplomatic development (joint 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 the procurement costs by new imports of shale gas from North America. Also, we will position our nation as a global hub for LNG and will advance the necessary infrastructure to secure an inexpensive and stable natural gas supply. In addition, we will promote strategic efforts by marine transportation and shipbuilding companies making use of Japan's technology to ensure stable transportation corresponding to the diversification of routes to North America, via the Arctic Ocean Passage and other energy transportation routes.

It has been confirmed that natural gas and methane hydrate can also be found in the ocean around our nation and we will further proceed with the related investigation and the examination for practical application, such as mining technology and cost reduction technology. Our nation will conduct intensive exploration and we will develop technologies to realize commercialization by FY2018.

93. Realizing economic revitalization and creating employment by promoting an integrated reform of our energy supply structure

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.

We will carry out a drastic reform to realize a major turnover of the electricity market system, that has been unchanged for the last 60 years, in three stages. First, (1) In April 2015 the electric power wide area management promotion organization was established in order to simplify the distribution of electric power beyond regions and to "strengthen the operation of the wide area system"

(established in 2013 in an extraordinary session) and to strengthen the stable energy supply, even in the case of a disaster. Next, (2) The full liberalization of retail entrance (legislation established at an ordinary Diet session in 2014) was implemented in April 2016 to enable the free choice of power companies. In doing so, we will ensure that consumers can appropriately choose power companies according to their needs without being involved in trouble and this protection of consumers is mainly conducted by the Committee on Monitoring Electric Power Transactions, newly established in September 2015. And, (3) We will enhance neutrality and independence by converting electric power companies and distribution departments into separate companies to enable everyone to use the transmission and distribution network equally. We will therefore “secure further neutrality of the distribution and electricity sector by legal separation (planned to be implemented in 2020) and aim for the “total liberalization of the retail fee” (scheduled to be implemented in 2020) by “eliminating regulations on electricity rates” (legislation was passed at an ordinary Diet session in 2015). In addition, we will carefully consider not to interfere with the lives of citizens and economic activities via our series of reforms.

By realizing the complete reform of the electric power system in three stages and promoting this integrated reform of the energy supply structure, we will restrain the rise of electricity prices, secure a stable energy supply, promote the growth of our industry in the future, strengthen our economic base, create new employment and thereby ensure the safety and security of our citizens.

94. Combining thorough energy conservation and economic growth

We will provide new energy investment to balance economic growth and CO2 emission control. Regarding the industrial, transportation and civilian sector, we will continue to tackle thorough energy conservation measures.

Therefore, we will promote the expansion of the benchmark system of business division and advance the application to the top runners system to introduce cutting-edge energy-saving equipment by private enterprises, construct an energy-saving consultation platform to conduct detailed energy conservation consultation for small and medium-sized enterprises and provide support for energy-saving house renovations to realize that the majority of newly built houses by 2020 will be converted to ZEH.

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Furthermore, we promote smart energy consumption by utilizing energy management systems, such as smart meter, HEMS or BEMS.

We will promote energy-saving by utilizing innovative and renewable energy technologies, such as next-generation semiconductors and gallium nitride storage batteries, that have about ten times the performance of lithium ion batteries.

95. Further promoting renewable energy and realizing a decentralized energy society

Based on the energy law formulated in July last year, we aim to expand the introduction of renewable energy, such as wind power, geothermal power, small hydropower or biomass power, and will promote renewable energy related businesses.

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, (1) we will ensure the proper operation of the fixed price purchase system, review the fixed price acquisition system and will develop technologies for a low-cost system via necessary regulatory reform. (2) We will promote the introduction of smart meters and HEMS/BEMS to realize smart energy saving (demand response) utilizing market mechanisms and establishing new businesses in the electric power sector. (3) We will promote the introduction and enhance the efficiency of home fuel cells (energy farm). (4) We will improve the environment to introduce next-generation automobiles (such as electric cars, dual plug-in hybrid cars and fuel cell cars). (5) We will strengthen our support measures for promoting the spread of cogeneration (combined heat and power supply) and improve the environment for this field. (6) We will support the introduction of highly efficient equipment, for example for petroleum.

In addition, to expand the introduction of renewable energy and create a distributed energy society, (7) we will take measures to establish systematic depreciation, by improving the electricity transmission network and wide-area rental operation and introducing large storage batteries. (8) Since storage batteries are Japan's worldwide strength in the field of high technology, we will accelerate price reductions, promote international competitiveness and promote further research and development of large storage batteries.

In order to revitalize regional areas by introducing the decentralized energy system, we will prioritize support for efforts by local government to improve the environment via the realization of smart communities and the installation of solar power generating facilities and storage batteries in public facilities. We will also support the introduction of high-efficient power generation equipment for sewers and the introduction of sewage heat and biomass facilities.

Furthermore, we will take comprehensive measures necessary to efficiently disseminate the decentralized energy systems in each region.

Via these efforts, we will attract new investment, create new businesses, contribute to the 600 trillion yen GDP and lead to local creation.

96. Economic revitalization by technologies in the resource 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.

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97. Promoting the space photovoltaic power plan (R&D on the space photovoltaic power generation system)

The space solar power generation plan is a space photovoltaic power generation system generating electric power by placing a large-scale photovoltaic power generation device in outer space and utilizes radio waves (microwaves).

To realize this magnificent plan, based on the results of advanced research on the energy radio wave transmission technology, we used the Japanese experimental module “Kibo” installed at the International Space Station. By developing a demonstration plan, we will promote research and development for the future use of new energy generators.

98. Recovering confidence 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.

In addition, we strive to voluntarily improve safety beyond the new regulatory standards and will also seriously consider the opinion of local governments on the concretization and enhancement of nuclear disaster countermeasures.

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 our 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 system liberalization. For Example, in order to establish a system for steadily and efficiently implementing projects, such as the reprocessing of spent fuel, we submitted a donation contribution bill to an ordinary Diet session in

2016 to enhance the liberalization progress and decrease the nuclear dependency. Regarding the review of the nuclear damages compensation system by the Atomic Energy Commission, we will accelerate discussions at the nuclear damages compensation system special subcommittee. Furthermore, based on our centralized responsibility system, we will enhance crisis management and decommissioning furnace and disposal of radioactive waste by developing related human resources for nuclear power plants, nuclear power producers, nuclear reactor manufacturers and other nuclear power generation facilities. We will establish an international cooperation system gathering wisdom from around the world and centered on Japanese world-class technology (reduction of radioactivity, shortening of half-life), including spent fuel and underground facilities not posing the threat of eventual large-scale evacuation. We will do our utmost with sincerity and good faith to regain confidence in our nuclear policy.

99. Developing human resources and radiation related businesses to realize a thorough application of safety standards and ensuring public peace of mind

Since it is important to improve the ability of personnel on nuclear safety, and in order to ensure the independence of nuclear regulatory committee, we will enrich our training system by conducting personnel exchanges with international organizations, universities and research institutions both inside and outside of Japan.

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.

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In addition, we will steadily advance our efforts for the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste to fulfill our responsibility towards the current and next generation and promote research and development on reducing the half-life of radioactive material. Also, we will create detailed contamination maps, conduct effective and proper decontamination and properly dispose designated waste, based on the responsibility of the government.

100. 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.

101. 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”.

102. Promoting research on inherently safe 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. Since the worldwide demand for high-temperature gas reactors rises, Japan, with its world-leading technical expertise, promotes further research and development on high-temperature gas reactor plants, which are inherently safe, while promoting international cooperation.

103. 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.

104. Developing innovative technologies to realize the radical reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

We will develop innovative technologies to achieve high-precision prediction technology of climate change, next-generation semiconductor technology for energy-saving to realize a renewable energy society in 2050. We will create world-leading innovative technology that combines climate change countermeasures and economic growth, such as next-generation photovoltaic power facilities and storage batteries.

Women's success

105. Realizing a society for women to shine

Our goal is to realize a society for all women to have confidence and pride in their own ways of life and can fully demonstrate their power in various fields and for them to shine.

(Supporting women to play an active role in politics)

2016 is the memorable 70th anniversary of women achieving suffrage. We will promote further participation of women in the political arena. Specifically, we will expand measures to nurture female candidates at central political graduate schools of our party and local political schools (cram schools) all over our nation.

Also, based on the framework of the “Female Success Promotion Law”, we will develop numerical targets on nurturing and supporting female candidates and we will also review the legislation of the Diet members and promptly urge each political party in the Diet to act accordingly.

(Strongly supporting female entrepreneurs)

We will support new careers and entrepreneurship of women in different stages. As an idea uniquely developed for women, we will discover and nurture female entrepreneurs who challenge business start-ups. We will provide support according to women's entrepreneurial stage, including the dissemination of information to resolve the lack of knowledge, supporting financing, enriching role models and taking efforts for balancing work and life.

We will utilize the wisdom and knowledge of women to discover and disseminate the attractiveness of regional area and thereby contribute to the creation of new goods and services while strengthening our regional problem-solving power. In addition, we place emphasis on women's success in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fishery and food education.

(Further expanding the “fields” of women's success)

We aim to increase the proportion of women in leadership positions to about 30%. Based on the “Act on Promoting Female Employment and Activeness” fully enforced in April this year, we will assist companies to grasp and analyze the recruitment, training and promotion of women and we will aid to formulate action plans, including numerical targets. We will increase the opportunities and incentives for public procurement by spreading advanced targets of companies, and promoting activities of excellent companies, such as subsidies for balanced work modes.

(Supporting women to be active in the “field” of communities)

Women contribute to the safety and security of regional communities in a wide variety of fields, including local self-governing, environmental conservation, crime prevention and disaster prevention. We will increase women's participation in the policy decision process of organizations, such as neighborhood associations and PTA.

It is essential for women to be the driving force of toughening our nation. We will reflect on women's point of view in policy making and in formulating and implementing disaster prevention and reconstruction plans. Providing such rich experiences to the world is part of our international contribution.

(Supporting women to be active in the "field" of the international community)

Published research results show a strong correlation between infant mortality rates and mother's literacy rates. In addition to supporting the education of girls in developing countries, we encourage gender-specific statistical surveys and strengthen policies to ensure that the budgets of each nation and Japan's ODA surely reach women and girls.

We will support nurses, health specialists and midwives while disseminating Japanese maternal and children handbooks.

Child marriage and child prostitution must be eliminated. Japan will take the initiative to enhance the international code of conduct to ensure that multinational corporations do not force women and children to work under severe conditions.

By further strengthening support for female personnel actively engaged in international organizations, we strive to improve our position in the international community, expand employment opportunities and improve working conditions after maternal leave.

(Supporting women in difficult circumstances)

For child-rearing families and single parent households, it is extremely important to ensure economic stability to prevent children from poverty. In order to ensure the healthy development of children, consideration must be given to temporal allowances for the parent responsible for child rearing. Depending on the actual circumstances of each household, we will support the balancing of work and child rearing to not isolate parents from children, will expand employment support and offer living support, including the maintenance of residential areas.

We will eradicate all kinds of violence against women. We will improve and expand nationwide one-stop support centers and enhance the comprehensive support for sexual offense and sexual violence victims.

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We will implement measures on DV perpetrators and stalkers. We will also grasp the actual situation of sales of the so-called JK business. We will strengthen our responses to harassment both at workplaces or elsewhere, including sexual harassment and maternity harassment.

Regarding disabled women, while paying attention to the fact that they may be placed in a complex and difficult situation due to disorders or disabilities, it is necessary to consider the provision of living support and we will promote efforts to advance education, employment, living environment, discrimination resolution and protection of rights. We will endeavor to improve information and data to draw attention to the sex of disabled people.

We will examine one-stop services that allows procedures to be conducted online by using personal number cards and thereby eliminating the need to go to municipal offices for women in difficult situation or women raising children.

106. Improving the social infrastructure for women's employment

(We will break down barriers for women's success by "reforming working styles" and "living styles".)

In order to realize work-life balance, we will promote a reform of working and living styles. We will review the upper limit of overtime working and the introduction of rest time (interval) regulations and will boldly revise men-centered labor practices to correct long-term labor. We will realize diverse and flexible working styles by promoting various working systems, such as full-time or short-time employment, flextime, teleworking or limited working. We will encourage enterprises to emphasize achievements within certain working hours and productivity per hour in personnel evaluation.

We will endeavor to reform the consciousness of men as well as the workplace culture, including "ikumen" and "ikubos". We will raise the social consciousness that men actively and naturally participate in households consisting of a couple to broaden the traditional status-quo that women should take care of household chores and child rearing. We will encourage management entities to actively support maternal leave and properly manage working styles for pregnant employees, employees giving birth or their spouses. Government ministries and local government will take the initiative for these efforts, strengthen related plans and advance the disclosure of working hours. Even the National Assembly will tackle these issues by prompting a notice of question.

(Supporting the balance of marriage, childbirth and child rearing)

We will provide continuous support for women to obtain sufficient information and realize their own life plan. Marriage and family styles are freely chosen by individuals, but as a nation, we also emphasize training and education to ease pregnancy, childbirth, child rearing and marriage essential to support a stable economic and social infrastructure for the next generation by relaxing the population decrease.

By enriching public and private support, such as domestic affairs, child rearing, nursing care and regional support services, we will enable both men and women to cope with family needs and work at various stages of a long-term occupation life.

We will secure one trillion yen as financial resources aiming for the quantitative expansion and quality improvement of child rearing support based on the "new child support system for parents".

We will advance child rearing support by elderly people, such as retired nurses, and will enhance childcare after childbirth and strengthen childcare support. We will also broaden the age frame for nursing care support after maternal leave.

We will support the balance of work and nursing care as a measure to facilitate maternal leave.

(Arranging the tax and social security system for women's success)

Regarding women who wish to switch to regular employment, and since many working women are non-regular employees, we proceed with various measures to convert women to regular employment. We will support the improvement of women's treatment and skills by realizing same wages.

We will review the operation of the tax and social security system, which is largely promoting women's position as spouses in the third industrial sector, so that it is not biased towards women's choice of living and working styles. We will also examine the tax system and social security system in consideration of childcare and nursing care support.

In order to maintain family ties and facilitate social activities of women, we will promote efforts to allow a widened use of maiden names. First of all, we will change the newly established system so that maiden names can be used for My Number cards.

(Supporting the empowerment of "science women" in education)

By strengthening science and mathematics education for junior high and high school girls to raise their interest and academic skills, we will enrich role models and will provide information on the possibilities of diverse careers to parents, teachers and principals. We will adapt research funding, employment styles and personnel systems to take specific life events of female researchers, such as birth, into consideration.

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We will further establish childcare facilities as "nursery schools at all universities" so that parenting, studies and research can be balanced. We will support the re-learning of women after maternal leave by re-employment and career upgrading.

(Promoting detailed measures on women's health)

We aim to establish the "Law Concerning Comprehensive Support for Women's Health". We will prepare pregnancy and childbirth measures, especially in depopulated areas, such as subsidies for specific infertility treatment expenses, expand the perinatal medical care information network and reduce the burden on obstetricians and pediatricians.

107. Promoting women's increased engagement in firefighting departments and defense organizations

In the field of firefighting where women's engagement is not fully advanced, we will improve the working environment for women to ensure work-home balance. We will promote the success of women by doubling the proportion of female firefighting official in ten years (5.0% by the beginning of FY2026) by conducting PR on the appeal of this position.

In addition to promoting awareness raising for current firefighting teams by enhancing the recruitment, we will encourage the participation of female personnel and expand opportunities to be active in defense organizations.

108. Youth employment support

We will enhance vocational education and career education to acquire skills and practical knowledge, while also improving the employment seeking environment, including the expansion of long-term internships.

Regional creation

109. Implementing “Policies to promote regional voluntary initiatives”

(Promoting a support grant for regional creation)

We will strongly promote regional creation efforts to realize Abenomics.

Currently, each local public entity starts ambitious regional strategies to open up our future based on our ingenuity. We will actively support these highly motivated local entities by “voluntary creation promotion subsidies” newly added to the initial budget of 2016.

In addition, regional creating is a long-term initiative and will not be realize in a short time. By utilizing related grants after 2017, we will continue to support local governments in their challenges.

(Utilizing the regional creation supporting taxation (corporate hometown tax payments))

In addition to encouraging local public entities and organizations to support local creation project of companies, we will actively utilize the regional creation support tax system (corporate hometown tax payment) to accelerate efforts of regional creation and to promote competition.

(Correcting disparities between the Tokyo area and regional areas)

Based on our basic stance to treat all areas equally, especially in terms of the industrial sector, we will improve the environment for disadvantaged areas and we will further support efforts on the promotion of national land toughening and the acceleration of disaster recovery.

(Toward the second stage of the bedrock control regulation reform)

Since its establishment two years ago, the national strategic special zones system has opened a breakthrough on bedrock regulation reforms in the fields of urban renewal, town planning, medical care, employment and agriculture. We will promote regional creation by implementing a regulatory reform and restructuring of bedrock regulations and by setting the two years until 2017 as the “period of intensified reform strengthening”. If there are highly effective regulatory reform proposals by enthusiastic local governments or business entities, we will promptly respond, realize concrete projects and create new designated national measures if necessary.

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We will also evaluate the results of reforms in designated areas conducted so far and will formulate further reform efforts.

110. Implementing policies to attract “work” and “people” to rural areas

(Constructing a society for women to shine)

We aim to realize a “society for all women to shine” and for all women to achieve their wishes regarding work and life and fully demonstrate their individuality and abilities. Therefore, based on

the law to promote the success of women in their professional life, we will strongly advance the improved treatment of working women by promoting re-employment support, employment support and the conversion to female regular employees to utilize women's knowledge and child rearing experiences.

(Overcoming the population decline)

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.

(Promoting our regional approach)

Since the actual state of the declining birthrate and "working styles" differs greatly from region to region, we promote a "regional approach" to realize regional efforts and "reforms of working styles" according to specific characteristics and local circumstances.

(Construction a system for the reflux of human resources)

In order to promote a virtuous circle of "work" and "people" in regional areas, we will steadily advance the regional relocation of government related organizations, such as central ministries and agencies, and research institutions to create regional innovations while also carrying out social experiments. In addition, we will establish a recruitment system for companies to facilitate the relocation to local and rural areas. Furthermore, in order to promote migration to rural areas, we will enrich our information provision system and consultation support desks for working, residential and living support, and aim to expand the system to connect young people with the aim to contribute to regional revitalization of rural areas by regional cooperation.

(Promoting "lifelong activity towns")

To encourage middle-aged and elderly people to move to rural areas and towns, we will promote communities where they can receive the necessary medical and nursing care to realize their hopes of an active and healthy life while interacting with local residents of multiple generations.

(Creating attractive work in rural areas)

We will improve the regional industrial productivity, promote the creation of new businesses and utilize the existing regional resources to create attractive workplaces in rural areas. Therefore, based on the considerations of the Regional Working Group Creation Council, we will promote Abenomics in rural areas, including the "internationalization of local techniques" (local innovation), "branding local attractions" (local branding) and "improving local work" (increasing the productivity of services).

(Promoting the revitalization of local schools and universities to expand local employment and human resource development contributing to communities)

We will utilize scholarships to promote the admission to local universities and use regional universities as a base of the region (knowledge) and by collaborating with local public entities, local companies and private organizations we will cultivate people who show pride and affection for the region they live in. In addition to strengthening education, and by cooperating with local governments, local companies, universities, technical colleges, vocational schools and high schools, we will enable the training of highly specialized professionals responsible for the regional industry as well as human resources contributing to regional areas.

111. Implementing “policies to solve regional issues according to regional characteristics
(Forming attractive local cities)

We will ensure healthy and comfortable living and sustainable urban management in local cities. Therefore, we will promote town development as a compact network, form an attractive economic and living area by strengthening urban 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.

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112. Promoting rivers as valuable public spaces in regional areas

Since nationwide rivers are a unique natural feature of regional areas, they reflect history and provide the appeal to relax and enrich the hearts of people gathering at rivers. By further exploiting the asset of rivers, which are valuable public places in regional areas, we will enable more lively and rejuvenated regions. We will support efforts of municipalities, residents and private enterprises that use rivers as regional treasures, use waterside areas wisely and use rivers to cheer up regional areas.

113. Enhancing the regional tax finance

In light of the difficult circumstances of local finances, we will enrich and strengthen regional financial resources. Therefore, as part of the drastic reform of the tax system, including the corporate tax reform, we aim to construct a local tax system with stable tax revenues and a low localization of tax sources by raising local consumption tax, rectifying the localization of regional corporate taxation and reviewing the corporate enterprise tax as well as other provincial corporate taxes. In addition, since it is also crucial to secure regional financial resources to promote regional creation, we will actively utilize our local tax payment system and the corporate version of the local tax payment system.

114. Studying large city systems

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

115. Supporting 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.

Small and medium-sized enterprises and small-scale business operators

116. Revising the “Basic Law on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” and establishing the “Basic Law on Small-Scale 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, partially, we revised the “Basic Law on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” in 2013, clarified basic principles and policies on small-scale enterprises and stipulated important policy measures for SMEs, including overseas development, and thereby took a meaningful first step.

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. We will thereby focus on finances and personnel of small and medium enterprises as well as ventures that try to expand.

By offering specialized support for small-scale companies, we also enabled small businesses, as the key player of regional economies, since they are currently vulnerable in various aspects, such as cash flow, overseas development, new business opening and others. Based on this, the Cabinet decided on the basic plan on small-scale businesses promotion in 2014, that will act as a “compass” for small businesses to take the next step.

In the future, based on the basic plan on small-scale businesses promotion, we will continue to concretize the spirit of the Basic Law on Small-Scale Businesses and will steadily implement measures to support small enterprises. At the same time, since the population declines, and since small enterprises uphold the regional economy but employment is expected to decrease, we will increase the necessary effectiveness of measures by ensuring PDCA based on the plan’s targets.

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.

Furthermore, for the future of SMEs and small businesses, it is necessary to continue exploring value-added products and services, and we will strive to quantitatively grasp these growth areas and use them as policy foundations.

117. Improving the productivity of small and medium enterprises as well as small business operators

Strengthening the management capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises and small businesses, accounting for 70% of the total number of employed workers and over 50% of value-added production, is crucial.

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However, the labor productivity of our nation remains at the 21st place in the worldwide ranking, and productivity is lowered mainly in the service industry compared to other industries and the US industry. The productivity of SMEs and small businesses is less than half of that of large enterprises and this disparity has been expanded in recent years. Also, in order to secure the necessary resources for raising wages like promoted by the “100 million people active society”, productivity improvement is absolutely required.

Due to these circumstances, we will revise the “Law for Promoting New Business Activities of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” (law concerning the management enhancement of SMEs) to fundamentally strengthen the structure to support the management of small and medium enterprises as well as small businesses and improve their productivity.

The revised law will specify methods to increase the productivity for each industry and business field and we will formulate different guidelines aiming for productivity improvement by introducing IT and analyzing financial aspects. We will provide financial and taxation support, including measures to mitigate the property tax, for small and medium businesses that act in line with these guidelines. Since businesses sometimes have difficulties in formulating plans on their own, we will establish a support mechanism for support agencies, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, financial institutions, tax accountants and small business diagnostic experts, to directly support the analysis of management situations as well as planning and conducting of business activities. We will also proceed to revitalize support organization for SMEs and small businesses.

In addition to small-scale enterprises, we will also expand our support targeted at regional medium-sized companies.

118. Improving management capabilities by utilizing IT

The technological innovation of IoT surely not only spreads to regional manufacturing SMEs, but also to service providing small and medium enterprises and it is necessary to respond to these stages from an early stage. First of all, we set up a council of the public and private sector to improve the awareness and utilization of IT by SMEs and small businesses. Also, since the biggest hindrance of the IT development of SMEs and small businesses is the lack of IT literacy, we will train and dispatch human resources to create IT strategies for these companies. Furthermore, we will support efforts of regional core companies to make full use of IT and digital manufacturing technologies, to enable various types of small businesses to lead the initiative for creating high quality and highly efficient production processes and for providing advanced services for each customer by using big data.

119. Stimulating regional demand

Since the establishment of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Demand Promotion Law in 2015, small and medium enterprises entered the public sector and utilize regional industrial resources to create “special hometown products”. By promoting the development of sales channels, we will identify the demand for products and services of regional SMEs and small businesses.

120. Establishing a new regional growth model

Economic growth in regions with their own characteristics leads to an overall economic boost in Japan. Therefore, the government (regional branch departments), prefectures and municipalities cooperate to establish a comprehensive strategy at local government level as a new regional growth model to connect the creation of new industries with expanded employment.

In order to capture the current trends (globalization, ICT, longevity, environment, etc.), we set up a council consisting of the industry, academia and prefectural government, and supported the specification of business fields for the past five years.

Also, in order to expand employment and income as well as to revitalize regional economies by improving the productivity of the service industry, we will promote efforts to strengthen and utilize the “Service Industry Productivity Council” and restructure it as a national campaign.

121. Supporting corporate activities and creating employment in regions

To overcome the rise in energy prices and imported raw material prices to ensure steady economic recovery and promptly realize economic revitalization, it is essential to widen new business opportunities and chances to realize the economic recovery of small and medium-sized enterprises.

We will promote the reduction of the application burden for subsidies of SMEs and small businesses and the integration of similar measures by establishing an economy and industry bureau in rural areas to promote small and medium enterprises and related measures, such as the improved utilization of accredited support points and organizations.

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Especially for SMEs, to widely spread measures for small businesses, we will improve the convenience and verify the effect of small and medium enterprise support portal sites. By enhancing and strengthening our SME policy, we aim to institutionalize a system to reflect the opinions of local companies in government policies, by utilizing the “Regional Industry Competitiveness Council” established in each region.

We will actively utilize support personnel, such as support bases, accredited support organizations, tax accountants, regional financial institutions, industrial coordinators and business consultants, to promote the vitality and uniqueness of regions and support initiatives that create “bonds”. Based on the fundamental mission of regional financial institutions to recapture regional funds, we will encourage regional revitalization and initiate active efforts for community-based financing.

In addition, we will appropriately evaluate the business contents of local companies and their potential for growth by urging regional financial institutions to play an active role in contributing to

the growth and productivity of regional industries and companies by actively tackling business support.

Furthermore, in order to enhance the ordering and procurement of public works, goods and services by local government, we request local governments to give maximum consideration to local small and medium enterprises to fulfill local orders and will try to optimize contracts and prices that place emphasis on “quality”. Additionally, we will realize a boost in purchasing local products by large-scale retailers, that have significantly expanded in recent years.

122. **Enhancing the financial budget of small and medium-sized enterprises and improving regional finance functions**

In order to support the financing of SMEs, small businesses and new businesses, we promote efforts to overcome deflation and supply money as a safety net and risk money for economic growth. Also, while taking care not to adversely affect the cash flow of small and medium enterprises, we will revise the credit enhancement system to become a system truly supporting the development of SMEs and small companies. In addition, regarding the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we will continue our former financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

By terminating the Small and Medium Enterprise Finance Facilitation Law, regional financial institutions support SMEs and small businesses more than ever in collaboration with external experts, external institutions and credit guarantee associations. Regarding the founding of small businesses, it is important to actively engage in the supply of risk money and consulting according to the stage of business development, growth and business revitalization. Therefore, regional financial institutions will also encourage community-based finance efforts as local economic revitalization support organizations.

In addition, in order to promote voluntary efforts of regional financial institutions, we encourage them to communicate information in a concrete and easy-to-understand manner to regional consumers.

123. **Promoting the independence of small business finances from personal 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 objectives, such as offering incentives 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.

Currently, we encourage financial institutions to compile innovative ideas to fulfill the accountability of the above-mentioned guidelines for financial institutions.

124. **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 in 2012, 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”.

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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.

125. 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, expand sale channels and create an environment allowing people who offer “selling goods” and people “wanting to buy” to match.

126. 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.

127. **Developing regional cooperation of small and medium-sized businesses and securing human resources 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 excellent support personnel capable of responding to specialized management tasks by reviewing the contents of training at SMEs. Therefore, we will improve our professional skill development by reviewing training contents at schools and formulating management improvement plans. In addition, we will promote the strengthening of the business foundation by supporting the construction, transportation and shipbuilding industry in regional areas and will therefore secure and train related human resources.

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128. **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 enact 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”. 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.

129. **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 and maintain their connection to communities.

We will use the angel tax system for management guidance and training for the development of new business in shopping districts. We will also promote the effective use of vacant shops and unused areas and will utilize town development companies to revitalize shopping districts and central urban areas. 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”.

130. Activating 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 enhancing the legal status of town development companies, 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

131. Revitalizing regional communities

We will support organizations that conduct community-based activities, such as neighborhood associations or self-governing associations, to revive “emotional ties” and the revitalization of regional communities. We will furthermore support the formation and sustainable management of “regional management organization” of regional residents as organizations sustainably implementing efforts to solve regional issues. 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. 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.

132. 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.

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.

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We will do our utmost to prevent depopulation in the future.

In addition, we will promptly examine further measures for designated depopulated areas based on the confirmed principle of the consensus in 2015.

133. Enhancing the “migration and exchange information garden” and “nationwide migration centers”

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 aim to enhance the information provision by holding seminars at the “migration and exchange information garden” that provides one-stop information and consultation on employment and living support. In addition, in order to provide comprehensive information, we aim to further enhance the “nationwide migration center” portal site that centralizes relocation-related information on employment and housings nationwide and we will therefore cooperate with local governments and related ministries and agencies.

134. 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 will provide consistent support for the recruitment of new members and volunteers for the re-settlement of offices by enriching our acceptance system, setting up counseling desks at municipalities and supporting relocating entrepreneurs.

135. Promoting the utilization of ICT to realize regional creation

For the future of regional creation, the 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, “hometown 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.

136. 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 all over Japan and the globe and we will work on resolving technical issues related to the utilization of broadcasting and communication technology. We will accurately grasp the needs of overseas travelers, such as holy land pilgrimage around program location, by analyzing big data and will try to develop regional revitalization measures in cooperation with broadcast contents of Cool Japan.

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

137. 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.

138. Further developing postal services to secure universal service and improve the convenience of local residents

The postal business, a common property of the public, consist of three companies of the Japan Post, Japan Post Bank and Japan Post Insurance and we are entering the stage of further developing their businesses, for the Japan Post Bank for the first time in 25 years and for the Japan Post Insurance for the first time in 30 years.

We will promote the cooperation of local governments, financial institutions and regional industries by utilizing the post office network as economic and social infrastructure to facilitate the fund circulation in regions and revitalizing rural areas and regional creation.

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We also support the international expansion of the Japanese-style postal infrastructure by advancing international logistics, cooperation and collaboration among Asian countries.

Furthermore, in order to secure universal service and to improve the convenience of local residents, we will diversify and strengthen the revenue sources of new businesses of the currently limited Japan Post Bank, which is the most familiar financial institutions for residents.

139. 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.

Based on the promotion of the energy infrastructure project, we will construct a locally decentralized energy system as an autonomous and disaster resistant system contributing to local production, a virtuous economic circle in regional areas, the increase of employment and the promotion of forestry by providing sufficient energy. In order to set up a regional energy project utilizing regional resources, such as biomass, we will promote the formulation of a “Master Plan” (energy plan to make use of regional characteristics) on commercialization at local levels by the cooperation of related ministries and agencies.

140. Expanding the virtuous global circle of regional economies

We will promote the “regional economy global circle creation project” to expand the business opportunities for municipalities and small and medium-sized enterprises to expand globally. By strengthen the “regional economy global circle creation portal site” that centralizes information on regional products overseas sales channels and the local attraction of companies, we will with JETRO, the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Infrastructure Development Organization and private enterprises on realizing the multilingualization of the webpage.

141. Promoting innovations in the maritime industry as a regional core industry

In order for Japan’s maritime industry to maintain its high international competitiveness as a regional core industry, we will encourage the utilization of information technology, such as IoT and big data, to develop ships and will promote initiatives to contribute to the creation in rural areas by aiming at an improved development and productivity enhancement in the shipbuilding, construction and maritime industry contributing to an improved overall GDP in our nation.

142. Sound development of the regional construction industry and securing profits of enterprises to improve 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 that the young generation, responsible for the future of the construction industry, enters 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 quadruplicated since 2013, 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.

143. 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.

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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. In addition, we will accelerate efforts centering on businesses related to airports, water supply, sewerage and road concession (private enterprise management), and will thereby create new business opportunities for private enterprises, efficiently operate social capital and improve services.

In order to promote overseas project and the overseas deployment of the construction industry, we will utilize top sales and the overseas transportation and city development project support organization (JOIN) to globally disseminate Japan’s excellent civil engineering and construction technology, transportation system, urban water infrastructure businesses and disaster prevention technology. We will also strengthen measures to support the overseas deployment of small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to the overseas infrastructure development.

144. Strengthening the support and proliferation of Japan’s outstanding sewerage technology

The global water business market is expected to further expand. We will promote the export of infrastructure systems in the sewerage field to make maximum use of Japan’s superior sewage technology and contribute to a strong economic growth.

In order to simplify the introduction of Japan's "high-quality" sewage technology to other countries, we will try to incorporate standards of partner countries to Japanese technology and will support the installation of sewerage facilities and promote the "visualization" of technology.

Also, in addition to training human resources to understand and utilize Japanese technology, we will promote the overseas development of sewer technology and will also promote human resource training at local governments, that play an important role.

Furthermore, we will further strengthen inter-governmental initiatives, such as creating top sales, signing a memorandum of understanding, providing policy advice to partner government, actively responding to Japanese companies' consultation and supporting requests for overseas diplomatic establishments, and we will thereby actively support corporate business activities by also working with partner governments on troubleshooting.

145. 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 as well as the provision of easy-to-understand information. 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 large cities and rural areas alike.

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.

146. 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 retain 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 highly energy-saving 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 to realize "smart and comfortable residential areas and cities". Along with that, we will promote the supply of rental houses as peaceful places and promote two or three household residences.

Also, in order to support large families, we will provide three-generation housings and related assistance, such as support for the construction of two-families houses and the expansion of nearby UR rental housings.

Since the decline of the birthrate and the aging of the population is progressing, we plan to utilize and mobilize the housing stock of elderly people, to consolidate living support functions, such as child rearing facilities or stations, to build a sustainable social system that offers healthy and secure compact town planning, including public transportation and living functions such as medical care, next-generation life support and mobility for ultra-small communities, while we will also promote the efficient energy use of towns and buildings by creating energy storages.

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.

147. Promoting inheritance registration

In order to solve the vacant land and unknown owner problem, we will promote inheritance registration and the utilization of experts to reduce the burden on future generations and citizens in general concerning the inheritance registration.

148. Promoting the improvement of the registration maintenance map project

We will promote the development and improvement of a registration maintenance map that accurately represents the location and parcel (landscape) of land for reconstruction, urban regeneration and rapid restoration after large-scale disasters.

149. Promoting 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 creation and land toughening. Therefore, based on the “compact network” concept, we will refine the individuality of each area and via the cooperation of regions with different characteristics, human resources, products and finances, we will disseminate information and promote the national land formation plan aiming at the formation of “typical characteristic national land”.

150. Enhancing measures for peninsulas, remote islands and the Amami peninsular

We will strongly promote peninsular areas by encouraging settlement in these regions via interregional exchanges and industrial development.

Since remote islands play a central national role for protecting and promoting the interests of our nation and citizens, we will further strengthen measures for remote islands, such as expanding island revitalization subsidies (soft business grants).

Since remote island air routes are just as important as national highways on the mainland, by enacting the new “Remote Island Air Route Maintenance Law”, we will enable the securing of the basis means of transportation (routes and airways) and will make sure to correct disparities in human flows and logistics.

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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 for the commuting between the mainland and remote islands.

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. Therefore, we will secure their safety and security via the adequate maintenance of ports and airport and strengthen our support for ensuring employment.

151. Expanding the grant for a strong and self-sustaining Okinawa based on the new second “Okinawa Promotion Act”

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” (ruling party’s special measures act), the new second Okinawa promotion plan

has been formulated and concrete measures have been implementing. In addition, the “Okinawa Promotion Special Measures Law” was revised in 2014, and the government will take necessary measures for implementing special economic revitalization special zones and expiring the tax system in 2017.

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.

In 2015, we revised the “Land Use Special Measures Law” and expanded the preliminary acquisition system for public land. In March 2015, the stationed military sites were returned to West Futenma as residential area and we take efforts to the international medical base concept, including the relocation of the Ryukyu University medical school and the affiliated hospital. We will continue to make use of this law to realize a “strong and self-sustaining Okinawa” so that Okinawa will become a growth model of the 21st century.

Regarding the Okinawa Science and Technology Graduate School opened with the philosophy to become “the best in the world”, we will conduct education and research on outstanding science and technology and promote the formation of intellectual and industrial clusters.

Furthermore, regarding the situation of serious poverty of children in Okinawa, we support the dispatching of support staff to improve the management of municipalities in the prefecture and to support children and their families.

Agriculture, forestry and fishery industry

152. Promoting measures to eliminate the anxiety of producers

In response to the TPP agreement, Japan is said to enter a “new era of agricultural policy”. By setting up an environment for producers to demonstrate their abilities and potential, we will preserve Japan’s rich, beautiful and vibrant food areas for the next generation.

Regarding concerns over the long-term impact on tariff cuts on the domestic agriculture, forestry and fishery industry, it is necessary to eliminate these concern about the future of agriculture, forestry and fishermen and encourage voluntary investments for management development and awareness of the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry. At the same time, we will steadily implement various measures based on the “TPP-related policy outline”, such as enhancing management stabilization after the enforcement of the TPP agreement.

153. “Agricultural new era” – reflecting producers’ efforts to develop agriculture, forestry and fishery measures

In order to create a new era of agricultural policy that enables dreams and hopes, we will clarify the image of the future agriculture, forestry, fishery and food policy while reflecting and enabling efforts

by producers. Therefore, we will formulate specific detail of the policies in autumn this years based on the aspects listed below.

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- (1) Developing a system to enhance human resources needed for the new era of agricultural policy
We will establish a nationwide agricultural management school (provisional name). In doing so, we will enable people to learn about marketing and acquire management know-how while farming in regional areas. We will also double the number of young people engaged in agriculture (10.000 people per year). Therefore, we will create an environment for young people to enter “farming employment and agricultural star-ups”. We will also build a sustainable soil and agricultural infrastructure based on the wisdom and science of our predecessors.
- (2) Enforcing the production cost reform (reviewing the structure of production material price formation, establishing a distribution and processing industrial structure)
We will implement the production cost reform. In addition to promoting visualization, we will also create an environment for reduce prices of production materials and farmers to purchase them in a stable and advantageous manner. In addition, we will construct a distribution and processing structure to profitable sell agricultural products.
- (3) Reviewing the land improvement system to facilitate the truly necessary infrastructure development
While assessing structural changes in agricultural and rural areas, such as the progress of agricultural land accumulation of workers, we will examine the land improvement system to grasp current situation of land improvement projects and districts and will examine further needs.
- (4) Improving the strategic export system
We will position export as a pillar for new earning. We will resolve regulatory issues, such as foreign market development and quarantine standards, and establish a comprehensive export strategy to achieve the target of an “export value of 1 trillion yen in 2020” ahead of the schedule and will set higher targets.
- (5) Promoting the labeling of the origin of processed foods
We will promote the displaying of the place of origin of all processed foods in a feasible way. Also, the citizens’ day-to-day choices will create a society that supports Japanese food and agriculture.
- (6) Examining the check-off system
We will consider examining the check-off system. With reference to the check-off system in other countries, we will actively encourage the expansion of the demand for domestically produced agricultural, forestry and fishery goods, and will promote export and research and development.
- (7) Continuation of the income insurance system
We will introduce the income insurance system as a safety net in case of decreasing incomes due to price reductions.

(8) Measure to promote rice as fodder

We will steadily achieve the production target for fodder rice (2025: 1.100.000 tons) listed in the basic plan for food, agricultural and rural areas decided by the Cabinet and we will realize an ideal circle of sustainable expansion that leads to an improved food self-sufficiency and strong livestock.

In light of the fact that the direct payment grant for rice (7.500 yen per 10 are) is a timed measure until 2018, in line with the review of the rice production policy until 2017, we will permanently secure the financial resources.

In order to block the influence of the SBS system after the enforcement of the TPP agreement on the supply, demand and price of domestically produced rice for staple foods, we will domestically produce rice equivalent to the import amount and will stockpile as much rice as we buy.

(9) Livestock and dairy measures (measures to a stable operation of the mixed fodder diet farming system, strengthening the production base of beef dairy farming)

We will build a powerful Japanese livestock and dairy farming. We will strengthen the production base of beef cattle dairy farms in order to strengthen and expand the income by constructing regional livestock clusters, including small and medium-sized family businesses.

We strive for a stable operation of the mixed fodder price stabilization system by securing supplementary financial resources and repaying planned borrowings.

(10) A mechanism to improve the employment structure of farmers in rural areas

We are considering comprehensive measures to expand employment opportunities in rural areas by introducing agriculture-related industries and agricultural management stabilization measures.

154. 10-year plan to increase the income in agricultural and rural areas – mobilizing a policy to create strong agricultural and mountainous 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.

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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, by taking full advantage of the sound economy as a whole and mobilizing agricultural and rural policies on the basis of the 10-year strategy to maximize the power these areas, we aim to increase the incomes of workers and maintain and improve their self-sufficiency.

Also, we will create agricultural and rural villages enabling farmers to produce with pleasure and strive to maintain our food security and the multifaceted functions of these areas based on the “Food, Agricultural and Rural Areas Basic Law”.

155. Maintaining and improving the food self-sufficiency ratio and power

We aim to train personnel and secure technology, agricultural land and workers 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.

Based on the Food and Agriculture Basic Plan established by the Cabinet in March 2015, we aim to maintain and improve our food self-sufficiency rate by securing appropriate farmland and promoting the aggregation and concentration of agricultural farmland. In addition, we aim to achieve the food self-sufficiency target in 2025 (calorie base of 45% and production base of 73%) like stipulated in the same plan.

156. Promoting the Japanese direct payment system

In order to ensure the multifaceted functions of agricultural and rural villages, such as national land, water source and natural environment conservation, we will introduce the “Japanese direct payment system to support the multifaceted functions of the agriculture”, which is based on the “Act on the Promotion of Foreign Trade Control” and will thereby support joint activities for the management of regional resources such as waterways and farm roads, agricultural production activities in disadvantaged areas and farming activities contributing to environmental conservation while also encouraging structural reforms, including the accumulation of agricultural land by farmers.

157. Promoting inter-mountainous areas

We promote farming in mountainous areas. We will steadily implement regional policies, such as improving the operation of the direct payment system to support the continuation of farming in inter-mountainous areas, and we will correct regional disparities and maintain community functions. In addition, even in disadvantaged areas, such as inter-mountainous areas, we will encourage the production of value-added agricultural goods, tourism promotion and the sixth industrialization by discovering and polishing local treasures and supporting the ingenuity of farmers.

Furthermore, by proactively promoting the development of water-related production facilities, we will promote these regional and industrial policies as complementing concepts to realize the revitalization of the agriculture and regional areas.

158. Supporting the management development of agencies (integration of agricultural land and promoting corporatization)

We will support the managerial development of agencies. The agricultural land intermediate management organization (Agricultural Land Accumulation Bank) is fully established in each prefecture, and we will accumulate and consolidate agricultural land to agricultural workers by 2023 to 80% (currently 50%).

In addition, we will enhance and strengthen our budgetary support for agricultural lenders, including organizational cooperation funds. Also, by periodically reviewing farmers and farmland plans via regional discussions, we will clarify the future management body and promote farmland accumulation.

In addition, we will promote agricultural and rural development projects in cooperation with the agricultural intermediate management organization.

We will strengthen the support for financing, taxation and investment by offering super L funds to

diverse players, such as corporate management, large-scale family management, settlement farming and related enterprises, and promote corporatization leading to a higher management level to quadruplicate the number of corporate businesses of 2010 to 50.000 by 2023.

Furthermore, we will actively utilize the capabilities of female managers for the development of regional agriculture and promote the reviewing of farmers and agricultural land plans while also creating settlement farming. We will also promote the management efficiency of small-scale farmers by integrating college farming and promoting the incorporation of village farming. In addition, we will try to cultivate environmental conservation by agricultural agents.

We encourage companies to participate in the lease system and utilize the companies' own sales channels and management know-how.

159. Measure on re-cultivating abandoned areas

We aim for zero abandoned areas. In addition to preventing the occurrence of abandoned land, we will try to fully re-cultivate abandoned areas that can be reused as agricultural land.

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Regarding the re-cultivation of abandoned farmland, we will utilize the agricultural intermediary management system, based on the farmland law. In addition, we will support reclamation of abandoned farmland and the processing of soil by farmers and the agricultural intermediary management agency. At the same time, we will promote the prevention and re-cultivation of abandoned areas by improving the production infrastructure.

160. Creating a strong foundation for agriculture (promoting agricultural and rural development projects)

We will steadily promote agricultural and rural development projects for cost reduction. We aim to revive the agricultural and rural development budget as quickly as possible to the former level before the substantial reduction in FY2010. In cooperation with the agricultural land intermediary management organization, we will promote the large-scale compartmentalization of farmlands, the generalization of upland field, the improvement of dendritic fields as well as disaster prevention measures and the renovation of aging ponds.

161. Developing multi-disciplinary personnel

We will cultivate diverse agricultural workers. By 2023, we will expand the number of agricultural workers in their 40s or younger to 400.000 and promote intergenerational farming to create a structure for diverse players, such as family farming, corporations, village farmers and enterprises, to coexist.

We will enhance agricultural employment, youth employment benefit payments and other farming funds and will strengthen agricultural management education support measures. We will also support new farmer to secure preferred farmland by utilizing the agricultural intermediary management organization.

Our party will establish an agricultural graduate school.

162. Advancing the growth of the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry by technology (promoting and utilizing R&D)

We will create agricultural innovation. By positioning state-of-the-art technology, such as robots, ICT, AI (artificial intelligence) and unmanned aerial vehicle (drones, etc.), as the future infrastructure of agriculture, we will use the total power and knowledge of the nation, prefecture, universities and private companies to promote the development of new value-added and super-labor-saving production system that have never existed before. We will clarify development targets for this industrial fields and will advance technological innovation together with farmers.

In particular, regarding the automatic driving technology of agricultural machines, (1) by 2018, we will commercialize automatically driving agricultural machines that run by manned surveillance, and (2) we will realize unmanned driving by remote monitoring by 2020.

163. Rice policy reform

For the purpose of securing rice production until 2018, we will realize a joint producer and consumer environment for producers, collectors and related organizations to smoothly carry out production according to demand and without relying on the allocation of production quantity targets by the government administration. Therefore, in addition to examine demand prospects nationwide, we will enrich detailed information on sales and inventory status in each production area.

We will steadily implement stability measures for an insurance system that supplements income in the case of falling rice prices according to the stakeholder management stability law. In addition to creating new demand for rice flour, such as non-gluten foods or food additives, we will also promote export and expand the distribution channels of rice. Aside from encouraging the production according to demand, we will support the implementation of voluntarily initiated measures to sell rice for other purposes, such as selling staple rice for long-term planning or exports, depending on weather conditions.

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

We will expand the production volume of soybeans from 200.000 to 320.000 tons by 2025 and the production volume of wheat from 920.000 to 1.17 million tons. We also intend to strengthen the production capacity to realize a stable supply. Parallely, we will introduce new diverse cultivation techniques, such as co-drying and the development of preparation facilities, to create a soybean and wheat production that meets the actual demand. We will improve the productivity by introducing a mechanized system, applying fertilizers according to the field conditions and implementing measures on drainage. In addition, to accumulate agricultural land for workers, we will promote the rotation and mixed cultivation of farmland as integrated regional efforts and will realize a stable and high-profit production structure.

165. Realizing the growth of the livestock and dairy farming industry

In order to realize the industrial growth of livestock and dairy farming, and in addition to measures already mentioned, we will improve the environment for an easy entrance into livestock and dairy

farming by reducing the risk of initial investment and enhancing the training quality of diverse workers including managers.

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We will promote the maintenance of cattle stations and the utilization of deposit mechanisms.

We will also promote the labor burden reduction and efficiency of feeding management by installing dairy helper and labor-saving machines, such as milking robots, while also aiming to overcome the dependence on imported fodder and develop a domestic fodder base. In order to establish competitive and stable husbandry and dairy farming management, we will promote the control of refractory weeds, the improvement of grassland to enhance productivity, the creation of fodder production organizations, the production and use of varied domestic fodder, such as rice and eco fodder, and cooperation on cultivation and grazing.

We will enrich the livestock and dairy farming management (dairy farming, beef breeding and fattening, pig farming, hen farming) according to the specific characteristics of each livestock breed to enable motivated producers to tackle the continuous management development.

166. Strengthening procurement measures

We will promote the power-up of businesses in production areas. In order to support innovations that make full use of the strengths of each region, we will support strategic initiatives, such as cost reduction, conversion of high-yield crops and cultivation systems to realize agricultural production targets.

167. Restructuring the production of horticulture crops

We will enhance the supply capability of horticulture crops to meet the market needs. Regarding the production of domestic vegetables and mainly vegetables for processing businesses, we will expand the demand by promoting a mechanized production and distribution system, while also rationalizing the distribution chain, and will increase the production by 200,000 tons from 1.195 million tons in 2013 to 1.395 million tons in 2025. Therefore, we will strengthen management support measures for higher quality and promote highly profitable production areas in line with demand.

In order to expand the demand for domestic vegetables, we will implement a structural reform of the production and distribution system for a stable supply of produced and processed vegetables by introducing crop stability technology and rationalizing the distribution by utilizing rail cargo transportation and domestic shipping. We will try to stabilize the management of vegetable farmers by promoting vegetable price stabilization measures.

To support the maintenance and expansion of high quality fruits, we will respond to various needs by enhancing the export, infrastructural development and modification support, while also promoting measures on unprofitable periods and the securing of the labor force. In addition, we will promote stabilization measures on raw fruits by introducing crop stability technology to expand the supply of processed fruit goods, such as fruit juice, by making full use of our domestic strengths. Furthermore, we will advance the development of next-generation and high-profit horticulture facilities by reducing costs, enlarging the scale of facilities, saving energy and advancing environmental control,

and we will shift to a management structure that will be unlikely to be affected by soaring fuel prices or natural disaster. We also aim to continue tax exemptions and refunding heavy oil expenses for agricultural businesses to stabilize the management of horticultural facilities and farmers. In addition, we will promote the development of various new product, the sixth industrialization and value-added goods by local producers.

Based on the “Flower Promotion Law”, we will promote the expansion of the domestic flower demand by strengthening the production and supply system of high-quality domestically produced flowers. We will promote efforts to appeal domestic flowers to domestic and overseas market by constructing a cooling chain, promoting flower development activities and promoting export.

168. Promoting special community-based crops

Based on the “Tea Promotion Law”, we will expand the domestic and overseas demand and aim to increase the tea production from 85.000 tons in 2013 to 95.000 tons in 2025. Regarding sweetening resource crops, we will secure the production and management stability by enhancing the production structure and implementing management support measures to secure local employment.

To improve the quality of tea crops, tea management and tea production stability, we will promote the promote the maintenance of tea ceremonies accompanied by countermeasures on unprofitable periods. We will also proceed with support for the accumulation of personnel, the improvement of defrosting measures, the conversion of the management structure to be not easily affected by surging fuel prices and the expansion of exports.

We will establish an integrated mechanized system for improving the production efficiency of sweetening resource crops, including potatoes, while promoting efforts to restore the production by utilizing the safety net fund, implementing measures for natural disasters such as typhoons, steadily promoting sugar cane production projects for each production area and supporting soil processing.

We will establish an appropriate rotation system for Hokkaido upland crops, such as sugar beet and potatoes, and will implement pest control measures and support the development of highly profitable cropping technologies.

We will also promote the production of buckwheat according to demand.

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169. Implementing countermeasures on wild birds and animals

We will do our utmost to counter wildlife damages. We aim to halve the population of deer, wild boars and monkeys that seriously damage the living, agriculture and forestry environment by 2023, and will promote efforts focusing on hunting officers established in municipalities.

In accordance with the “Special Measures Law for the Prevention of Wild Birds and Animals”, we will further increase the number of wildlife damage countermeasures units and will promptly set up wildlife damage countermeasures execution units required in certain areas while also enhancing their structure. In addition to strengthening our support, we will promote comprehensive measures for regional issues by revising the above-mentioned law and extending exemption measures on marksmanship skill training by revising fire weapons laws. In addition, we will strengthen hunting

measures, such as population control based on wildlife surveys, and will disseminate advanced knowledge, technology and know-hoes leading to damage mitigation. Furthermore, we will support the maintenance of shooting ranges to secure hunters, as well as the installation of processing and incineration facilities for captured birds. Additionally, we will promote flexible municipal units during hunting season in hunting areas.

Since forests and forestry are also severely affected by deer, we will promote broad and systematic capturing and a control and monitoring system that involves forestry personnel.

170. Promoting the sixth industrialization

We will promote the sixth industrialization by the collaboration of regional production, agriculture, commerce and industries. By incorporating domestic and expanding global food markets, we will realize the industrial growth of agriculture, forestry and fishery and increase the market size to 10 trillion yen (currently about 4.7 trillion yen) by 2020 and thereby increase the income in rural areas. We will also actively utilize agriculture, forestry and fishery growth fund to increase value-added agricultural, forestry and fishery products while also promoting local production and local consumption by incorporating the growth of food-related industries which are expected to expand in the future.

The first, secondary and third industrial sectors will cooperate to build a consumer value chain and by utilizing the geographical indication protection system, we will increase value-added food and employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry. Also, we will support the sixth industrialization of agriculture as well as efforts for local production and consumption, and will create a network of various business operators, such as local agriculture, forestry and fishery farmers, tourism enterprises and school meal providers. We will train and secure human resources familiar with marketing and the coordination of agricultural, forestry and fishery workers. We will support the sales channels and commercialization of know-how of companies.

171. Guaranteeing food security and consumers' confidence

Based on scientific knowledge, we will strengthen the animal and plant quarantine system to prevent infectious diseases and pests from invading and spreading while also addressing drug-resistance measures in the animal medicine field. In addition to measures on potato, chrysanthemum and citrus fruit flies, we will protect the farming environment via control measures for newly occurring pests to ensure farmers' peace of mind, guarantee food security and ensure consumers' confidence.

We will develop educational appreciation for food and create dietary education as a national campaign to enable citizens to choose their own food. Also, we aim to bring residents of agricultural and mountainous villages and citizens together to increase the awareness of people on agricultural and rural areas and expand the system to familiarize children with agricultural and farming villages.

172. Sustainable agricultural development in harmony with the natural environment

By introducing renewable energy, we will promote the return of profits to communities and by promoting agricultural and mountainous villages, we will establish a stable production, distribution and consumption system, including school meals and restaurants. We will also establish a stable

domestic supply system for agricultural products by developing a sustainable agriculture via technology in line with “the natural circulation function of agriculture” while also supporting local supply and demand plans, domestic cultivation of medical crops, soil processing of functional agricultural, forestry and fishery products as well as organic agriculture. In addition, we support activities working on the reduction of food loss, recycling of fodder residues and energy utilization of food residues.

173. Formulating and implementing a comprehensive export strategy

We will develop a comprehensive export strategy and implement export promotion measures for each priority item, such as rice, beef, vegetables, tea, wooden products and fishery products.

By developing a strategic export system, we will strengthen the overseas marketing of regional agricultural, forestry and fishery products, foods and alcoholic beverages via the leading role of associated enterprises and supporting efforts to disseminate Japanese food culture and food related products all over the world.

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Based on the revision of the geographical indication protection system, we promote exports while advancing mutual protection from foreign countries.

We will enrich measures to expand Japanese liquor export and promote the utilization of geographical indicators to improve the brand power of Japanese alcoholic beverages.

In addition to promoting strategic negotiations on animals and plants quarantine and developing food safety management standards in Japan, we strive to improve the export environment by eliminating food import restrictions in other countries while trying to dispel rumor damages caused by the nuclear accident. Furthermore, in order to establish Japan Brands”, we will establish an annual supply system for Japan’s agricultural products in wholesale markets and expand the overseas expansion of food products making use of the Japanese food culture, food industry and processing technology. We will promote exports of domestic agricultural, forestry and fishery products by cooperation with overseas Japanese restaurants. In addition, we will enhance the provision of information on the “Japanese food culture” in overseas official embassies and institutions by actively utilizing agriculture, forestry and fishery growth funds.

We will promote the acquisition of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification and the establishment of HACCP based food safety management standards as well as GAP related export standards and certification mechanisms for export originating from Japan.

In addition, we will invite foreigners to experience the culture and beauty of agricultural and mountainous villages in Japan and to become a fan of Japanese food, agriculture, forestry and fishery products by promoting the “certification of scenic spots in food and agricultural areas” and will thereby contribute to the expansion of exports.

174. A new era of urban agriculture

We will realize a new era of urban agriculture. Based on the established Basic Act on Urban Agriculture Promotion, and in order to demonstrate the diverse functions of urban agriculture, we

will set up urban agricultural land as a valuable “green resource”, which enables the stable continuation of urban agriculture and secures the conservation of urban farmland. We will consider establishing a new institutional framework and necessary tax measures, such as the application of the tax deferral system for inheritance taxation and the reduction of the tax burden for lending and borrowing.

175. Enhancing the recovery of agriculture and forestry damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident

We will do our utmost to revive the agriculture and forestry industry severely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. On the premise of the state’s responsibility, we will promote thorough measures to regenerate agricultural land, agricultural facilities, horticultures and coastal disaster prevention forests and will support large-scale efforts against the impact of radioactive materials on agricultural lands and irrigation ponds.

We will carry out thorough and promptly compensations related to the TEPCO nuclear power plant accidents and will utilize the fund established in the prefecture of Fukushima to support the resumption of farming in evacuation areas.

Regarding, rice, livestock products, vegetables, fruit trees and shiitake mushrooms, we will conduct necessary inspection of radioactive substances and carry out thorough decontamination and will also take all possible measures to eliminate damages caused by rumors, provide safe food to consumers and will increase consumption.

We will take comprehensive efforts aimed at the regeneration of forests and forestry in Fukushima and will work on the restoration of the timber industry.

176. A new ear for the forestry industry and the expansion of domestic timber production

In order to realize the growth of the forestry industry, and to promote the increase of wages of forest owners and lumber producers as well as to expand the employment in rural and mountainous areas, we will actively work on expanding the rate for domestic timber use to 50%.

Regarding housings account for about half of the domestic demand, we will raise the production share of domestic timber for the construction of houses, including beams and girders, by encouraging the cooperation of construction companies, the forestry industry and timber industry.

In order to accelerate the dissemination of CLT (Cross-Laminated Timber) and its utilization for medium to large-scale buildings, we promote and expand the popularization and production system of CLT based on the General Design Law formulated in April this year. We will also promote the development and dissemination of new wooden products and materials, such as fireproof wood, and expand the utilization of wood at offices and stores.

Based on the Law on Promoting the Utilization of Timber in Public Buildings, we will actively support the utilization of domestic timber in public buildings (schools, etc.) and advance the use of domestic timber in the public civil engineering sector.

Furthermore, we will expand the use of timber in factories, warehouses, offices and other workpieces

such as guardrails. We will actively promote domestic wooden houses and earthquake-resistant private and public housing.

We will also promote the introduction of hardwoods that can be used for furniture and chip materials.

To promote the growth of timber, we will promote education on the virtue of forests and trees, strengthen experiential learning (expansion of school forests) and enrich the understanding of Japanese architecture to nurture wooden building engineers.

In addition to thoroughly using legal timber according to the “Green Purchasing Law”, we will work on grasping the realities of the timber production and distribution, carry out necessary legal measures and take efforts to combat illegal logging to contribute to the prevention of global warming.

177. Promoting the utilization of woody biomass

In order to realize the settlement in and revitalization of mountain villages, including the expansion of employment and income and a stable energy supply, we will actively promote woody biomass power generating facilities utilizing wooden materials, such as unused thinned timber and cellulose nanofibers, and will advance the introduction of chips for coal-fired power plants and chip boilers as well as pellets for agricultural facilities and firewood for stoves.

178. Developing diverse personnel and human resource to support the forestry

In order to develop and secure young new workers via “green employment”, we will nurture diverse human resources such as forestry engineers and technicians, forest management supervisors (forester), forest operation planner, forestry associations, forestry enterprises as well as self-employed forest workers.

179. Strengthening measures to promote mountain villages

We will comprehensively support regional activities of mountain villages and efforts of forestry operators (management of forests, response to invasive bamboo, etc.) to enhance the multifaceted functions of forests. Given the declining population, aging society, decline of living convenience and intensified wildlife damages, it is necessary to revitalize and maintain mountain villages. Based on the revised “Mountain Village Promotion Act”, we will utilize regional resources as well as subsidies and the tax system to support the revitalization of mountain villages.

Parallely, we will strengthen the support for the production, distribution and sale system of special forest products, expected to be highly profitable, and will diversify the use of mushrooms, medical herbs and charcoal.

180. Establishing a stable supply system for domestic materials in response to demand

Since the artificial forests created after the war are entering the stage of full-scale use, and in order to make full use of forest resources, we will support efforts to conclude agreements with timber supplying forest owners and lumber producers to establish a stable and efficient supply system for domestically produced timber according to demand and while promoting wood processing and distribution facilities, such as sawmill factories and stock yards.

In addition, in order to realize a stable but low-cost supply of domestically produced materials, it is necessary to prepare forest management plans, consolidate operations, introduce high-performance

forestry machinery, develop and disseminate advanced catchment and material technology, introduce a work system and utilize seedlings container.

181. Clarifying forest owner and boundaries

In order to consolidate operations and to prevent foreign capital from acquires forest sections, we will utilize the provisions of the “Forest Law” to enable municipalities to develop forestry ledgers, utilize ICT to generate forest information and promote the maintenance and acceleration of cadastral surveys to clarify forest owners and boundaries.

182. Promoting forest resorption countermeasures

Based on the Paris agreement, we will promote forest resorption countermeasures. In order to achieve the forest maintenance targets in 2020 and 2030, we will expand subsidies for afforestation, undercutting, clearing and thinning and we will construct a mechanism that enables reforestation after clearing. In particular, we will promote efforts to expand the supply and utilization of domestic timber to contribute to the promotion of appropriate thinning, the recycling of resources and support measures to a stable supply of seedlings to ensure reforestation. In addition, we promote diverse forest planning, including broadleaf forest, needle wide mixed forests and other forms. We will also ensure the proper maintenance of forest water sources by public entities and promote a sound management by public forestry corporations. We furthermore advance the development of road networks necessary for the maintenance of forests and support initiatives to extend the functioning of existing facilities, such as forest road bridges.

Based on the outline of the ruling party’s tax reform in FY2016, and regarding special global warming countermeasures for the oil and coal tax rate, we will enrich the utilization and full-scale dissemination of woody biomass energy to control energy-related CO2 emissions.

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Also, after taking necessary measures to strengthen the role of municipalities in forest maintenance, we will take vital measures to develop human resources supporting regional forests and forestry and will consider a new tax system (forest environmental tax (provisional name) to encourage personnel to devote themselves to the continuous and stable forest development in municipalities.

183. Promoting pollen countermeasures

We will realize a zero pollinosis society. We will promote the development and practical application of pollen scattering prevention technologies, including the replanting of pollen seedlings and introducing hardwoods.

184. Promoting the export of domestically produced timber

To make the best of Japan’s excellent wood processing technology and dimensional accuracy, we will prepare timber product specification, such as dryness, and strengthen the cooperation with housing-related industries and foreign countries to promote the export of wooden products and furniture. Thereby, we aim to expand the use of domestic materials in overseas diplomatic missions and embassies.

185. Creating disaster-resistant forests

In order to protect the lives and livelihoods of our citizens from heavy torrential rains and frequent earthquakes caused by global warming, we will promote the development of healthy disaster-resistant forests, including the maintenance of needle wide mixed forests, the development of coastal disaster prevention forests that alleviate the damages of tsunamis and the toughening of green landscapes.

186. Promoting special soil zone measures

We will promote special soil zone measures to conserve specific soil areas and improve agricultural productivity by extending the special soil zone disaster control and promoting a law on temporary measures.

187. Promoting inter-city cooperation and a compact plus network

Via inter-city cooperation, we will create urban areas as the bases to maintain the population in certain areas, revitalize regional economies, strengthen and accumulate advanced city functions and maintain and improve local living services.

The issues of cities, such as the declining population or the progress of aging in local cities, has severe impacts. In order to maintain the vitality of regional areas, we will enrich urban functions, such as medical welfare, commerce and residence in rural areas, and create compact cities while effectively utilizing existing facilities and network for city planning.

Furthermore, regarding depopulated areas, we will create “small bases” to enable the accessibility of indispensable everyday life facilities and functions by foots, such as refurbished shops and clinics and renovated old village offices. By linking neighboring settlement areas and networks, we will promote sustainable community development by reducing service personnel, improving service costs and maintaining daily living functions to solve problems related to aging.

188. Promoting measures to dispel concern of fishermen on the TPP agreement

In order to realize a strong fishery industry capable of responding to changes in the international environment due to the TPP agreement, we will try to convert fishery and aquaculture businesses to a sustainable profitable operation system via wide-area restructuring of for example seashores. Specifically, we will introduce a fishing boat lease system based on the wide-area seashore plan, restructure facilities in production areas, conduct a structural reform of the fishery industry, improve the operation of the fishery management by constructing a safety net and promote a stable supply of raw food.

In addition, in order to advance the export of high-quality Japanese fishery products, we will support the development of integral commonly-used facilities and promote fishery processing facilities HACCP compliance to realize a consistent sanitation management at large-scale distribution and export bases and fishing ports.

189. Accelerating the revitalization of the fishery industry damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima nuclear power plant accident.

We will do our utmost to accelerate the revitalization of the fishery industry and fishing vessels 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 fishery productions bases, fishing ports, aquaculture facilities, fishery processing facilities, refrigeration and ice production facilities, we will carry out flexible measures to conduct the region's restoration and reconstruction in accordance with the opinions of the disaster area and the actual situation. Also, regarding the fishery processing industry, we will support efforts to develop new products using local marine products and to develop new sales channels, while we will also restore existing sales channels.

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In addition to ensuring direct damage countermeasures, such as self-control of nuclear power plants and anti-ram measures, we will fully support the reconstruction of the fishery industry, including double loan countermeasures. We will also thoroughly monitor the radiation in the Pacific Ocean and the sea bed.

190. Promoting countermeasures for soaring fuel prices

Since fuel accounts for most of the costs in the fishery industry, we will protect the fishery management from soaring fuel and aquaculture fodder prices by distributing supplementary money in case of raising fuel prices and will thereby enhance the competitiveness of the fishery industry. We will support the introduction of fishery equipment that contributes to the support of fishery-related workers, an efficient operation system, and improved productivity as well as labor-saving and cost reduction. We also aim to continue tax exemption and refund measures on heavy and light oil for the fishery to stabilize fishery management.

191. Securing management stability for fishermen

In order to stabilize the management and income of fishermen, we will unify fishing vessel insurance groups, expand the coverage scope of insurances and will revise the requirements for subscription to the "fishing vessel insurance system" and "fishery mutual aid system" to enable motivated fishermen to join. In addition, we will further promote the subscription by expanding and enhancing the "fulfillment plus system". Furthermore, we will significantly reduce the premiums of the fishery facility mutual aid system.

Aside from supporting the popularization of the Japanese fishery ecolabel and brand names of fishery products, we will sustainably develop a high-quality fishery so that fishermen will be able to continue fishing and management with pride and motivation and devise a mechanism to include fishermen into fish price setting.

In addition, we will revise the loan system to enable fishermen working on fishery management soundness will be able to swiftly and smoothly obtain necessary funds, and will also expand the system to allow unsecured and unguaranteed people use the guarantee system.

192. **Become a fisherman! Supporting new employees and employment in the fishery industry**

We will inject new power to the fishery industry, which is the core industry in rural areas and reactivate fishing villages. Therefore, we will construct a system that transmits detailed information to new applicants. Also, we aim to expand and strengthen the support by the national government to enhance the organization of host institutions, such as fishery cooperatives and fishery related organizations and companies, that conduct on-site training and seminars.

193. **Restructuring and relaxing regulations for the fishery industry**

In order to construct a profitable fishing industry in which resource management and operation management are consistent, we will grasp and predict fishing sea conditions by utilizing artificial satellites and will improve the efficiency of the fishery industry by utilizing ICT. In addition, by using the funds established as countermeasures on TPP, we will support the reconstruction of aged fishing boats as low-cost but highly-productive and energy-saving fishing vessels and will construct a large number of ships while we will also strengthen the support measures for the introduction of fishing vessels by leasing, based on the wide-area seashore plan. Regarding regulations, such as fishing boat standards and qualifications of workers, we will revise them based on the actual situation and proactively promote deregulation commensurate with the current state-of-the-art.

194. **Promoting the expanded consumption of domestically produced fishery products and promoting local production**

Since the consumption of fishery products has drastically decreased, we will further enhance our efforts for including fish into eating habits from childhood onwards by introducing experiential fishery at educational site, promoting local consumption and local production and supplying school lunches to increase the willingness to use fishery products. We will promote a coordinator system based on the “domestic fishery distribution and promotion project” that will serve as a bridge for marine product supplies and will match the needs of the production area and consumers. In addition, we will promote agricultural commerce and industry collaboration to eliminate the clogging of the fishery product distribution and secure fishermen’s cooperatives to utilize unused fish. We will also assist ambitious fishery management to expand the consumption of fishery products, secure raw materials, develop processing technology and expand sales channels.

195. **Improving wholesale markets as important bases for the distribution of marine products**

We will strengthen the functions of wholesale markets as important bases linking producers and consumers and conduct sales by directly interacting with consumers. We will continue to support fishery retailers and other related businesses to expand the consumption of marine products based on a stable business environment by building an integrated distribution channel (supply chain) and by strengthening the support for logistics and facility maintenance related to information flows. By constructing a well-maintained fishery industry, we will advance the hygiene control infrastructure and implement stable management measures.

196. Constructing a well-managed fishery industry to promote product exports

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 by an integrated sanitation management. Based on these hygiene and inspection standards, we will introduce and disseminate the HACCP certification 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 while also relaxing and accelerating the issuance of various certificates required for exports. By developing a monitored distribution system, from the production site to the end consumer, we will grasp the needs in local areas, analyze target nations, support detailed marketing of special fishery products and utilize local consultants to promote regional and fishery industries. By expanding the export of marine products, we will also contribute to stable fish prices, expand the consumption of domestic marine products and will revitalize fishing villages and increase incomes in the fishery industry.

*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.

197. 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 (fish factories) and will strengthen fishery management, with emphasis on profitability while considering the environment, by steadily increasing aquaculture and fishery exports and providing cost support for mixed fodder.

In addition, we will promote measure to advance mainland waters fishery by improving the fishing ground environment in our abundant rivers, lakes and steep terrain which is unique to our nation.

198. 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 to secure the safe operation of Japanese fishermen, we will strengthen and expand damage countermeasures and thoroughly manage resources in the waters surrounding Japan.

As a sovereign state, we will resolutely address undue obstructive activities threatening human lives, such as extreme environmental protection groups in the seas, and fishing restrictions based on undue pressure. Japan has taken the leadership in tackling international resource management and whaling issues based on scientific investigations and we will thereby realize a sustainable utilization of migratory fishery resources, including bonito, tuna and whales. We will conduct resolute diplomatic negotiations to preserve our national interests and will also develop overseas fishing grounds via international cooperation and ODA. In particular, we plan a system to conduct surveys on whaling as a national project.

Regarding trade negotiations with, for example, the WTO or EPA and FTA negotiations, we strive to compile international rules to protect the achievements and pride of our predecessors as our national interests and we will also safeguard regional core industries while strengthening the international competitiveness of the fishery industry. Also, we will deter illegal operations of foreign fishing vessels, including coral fishing vessels in the Ogasawara waters, and strictly control them.

199. 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”.

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Regarding the fishing ban in Russian waters, we will steadily offer support and assistance to alleviate the impact on drift net fishermen in the Hokkaido and Higashi area.

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.

200. Promoting tough, safe and affluent fishing villages and fishing ports

We will promote disaster prevention measures to prepare fishing ports and villages for the Nankai Earthquake and tsunamis.

We will promote sanitary control measures and the ecological measures for fishing ports and will additionally advance the maintenance of aging fishing ports and facilities to enable their “safety” and resistance against natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis or typhoons. We will also promote the efficient utilization of calm waters at fishing ports as a place for aquaculture.

We will not allow the truncation of small fishing ports.

We will also promote rich and safe fishing villages with well-balanced living environments by for example correcting the delayed maintenance of domestic wastewater.

Moreover, by advancing the “seashore revitalization plan” for seashores nationwide, we will improve the income of fishermen and restore the bustle of seashore by securing and establishing related personnel.

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

201. Advancing the multifaceted functions of the fishery

We aim to steadily promote the “fishery multifaceted function demonstration project” and “remote island fishery demonstration project” to manifest the provided functions to citizens, such as the important role as “guards” of Japan’s territory and border and providing health, recreation, exchange and education, and will thereby support the fishery and fishing villages that play such a vital role.

202. Establishing measures against damages of pests and disinfestation

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.

Reconstruction after the earthquake disaster

203. Reconstruction as our top priority

The reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake will remain our top priority.

With the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in Japan in 2020, we will reward the support and cooperation provided by people and nations from all over the world and will show that we as a nation have completed the reconstruction.

204. Starting the “reconstruction and creation period”

Based on the achievements and remaining problems in the “concentrated reconstruction period” over the past five years, we will steadily eliminate the damage in the “reconstruction and creation period” over the next five years. In order to regain living and business in the disaster-stricken areas and to realize a stable future for the Tohoku region, we will further strengthen the cooperation of local residents, municipalities, prefectures and the national government to create a common awareness for the goal of establishing a “original Japan system”.

We strive to realize the “new Tohoku” that will lead to the autonomy of affected areas and will become a model of regional creation while responding precisely to new issues and diverse needs arising during the reconstruction progress. In addition, since the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima requires mid- to long-term responses, the state continues to work on this even after the “reconstruction and creation period”.

205. Giving afflicted people an outlook and hope for their lives

Based on the “housing reconstruction process tables” revised this May, we will enable disaster

victims to enter permanent housings as soon as possible to provide prospects and hope for their lives and we will continue the construction residential houses to ensure that all evacuees have an outlook and hope of when, where, how and with whom to live.

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206. Improving town functions

We will accelerate the revitalization of industries and businesses, develop an environment that secures employment, education, medicine and shopping districts as important “town functions” to enable people to live with peace of mind.

As part of that, regarding the prefecture of Fukushima, we will cooperate with the local government to realize the “coast innovation concept”.

207. Forming new communities

In the future, since disaster victims move into public housings, the formation of new communities becomes an important issue. Regarding the consolidation of temporary housings and the maintenance of disaster municipal housings, it is necessary to consider implementing lifestyle consultation, supporting living reconstruction, supporting the fusion of new communities via the integration into existing communities and proceeding with the “reconstruction of minds” to recreate the lives of victims.

208. Revitalizing 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.

209. Restoring and maintaining the traffic infrastructure

We will continue to do our utmost to restore and improve the main transportation means, such as road, railroads and essential reconstruction routes.

210. Diversified health and life support for disaster victims

We will offer mental and physical health support and maintenance in line with the progress of the reconstruction. We will comprehensively take measures to support victims on challenges arising as results of the progress and stage of the reconstructions, such as the prolonged evacuation life in temporary housing, the relocation to permanent housings and the migration to new areas. Furthermore, in order to prevent the isolation of evacuees and provide appropriate support according to the specific mental and physical conditions, we will widely introduce effective measures, such as care and health support and elderly people's health promotion. We will also consider supporting care workers, will disseminate health management data to new addresses and support children's and students' minds and learning.

211. Reconstructing regional medical care

We will further promote the revitalization of medical care and nursing care in affected areas since these are indispensable "town functions".

In particular, in addition to promoting the return of nursing staff in evacuation areas and promoting reemployment, we promote the collaboration among local medical institutions and will take effective measures to support doctors working in the afflicted areas.

212. Detailed responses based on actual circumstance

Since new problems arise in areas that accepted many evacuees, such as housings, waste disposal, crimes during the evacuation, shortage of equipment and materials and population outflow due to the disaster, we will respond to the actual circumstances in a more detailed manner regarding the labor force and measures for the housing demand and will therefore enhance full-fledged reconstruction projects.

213. Responding to changes in the administrative demand

Regarding the expenses required for dispatching staff to municipalities in affected areas (personnel expenses for holidays, personnel expense for term officials, etc.), we aim for a zero burden of municipalities during the reconstruction and creation period by establishing a system to secure the necessary personnel to prevent hindrances to reconstruction projects.

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214. Measures to prevent damages by wild birds and animals

Since wild birds and animals also interfere with the reconstruction, we will continue with emergency countermeasures, such as hunting and catching wild bears and maintaining intrusion prevention fences, in addition to investigating their habitat status. We will support damage prevention measures on wild birds and animals, including the purchase of traps and enhancing hunting activities.

215. Preparations for future unprecedented disasters

As this year marks the fifth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we compiled a report on results of the “verification team on initiatives of the government during the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster” and will take preparations for the future.

In the future, based on this report, we will carry out every possible effort to be prepared for future catastrophes by accumulating diverse efforts to “prepare for unexpected disasters”.

Recovery from the nuclear power plant disaster

216. Utilizing the G-space project to support the recovery 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.

217. Developing an ICT infrastructure to contribute to the reconstruction

Nowadays, ICT has become an indispensable social infrastructure, and it is just as important to support the restoration and reconstruction of afflicted areas. Regarding the reconstruction progress after the Great East Japan Earthquake, town development and relocation of residents will be based on our full-fledged reconstruction plan. For affected municipalities, we will support the improvement and restoration of the ICT infrastructure, including high-speed broadband and broadcasting and information communication systems in public facilities, so that residents can start new lives smoothly. We will jointly develop local business continuity plans as soon as possible.

Moreover, the realization of smart cities triggered by the nuclear accident and mountain relocation in affected areas also contributes to solving environmental and energy problems. The maximized utilization of ICT for reconstruction not only greatly contributes to economic growth, but also to the improvement of people’s lives by solving social problems, creating employment and improving public services by local governments.

In addition, we introduced ICT sensors to restore the social infrastructure, , such as tunnels, bridges and bicycle paths, while we also accumulated and analyzed big data to promote the local economy, nurturing home and service personnel and spreading these efforts nationwide.

218. Cooperation to revitalize Fukushima

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.

219. Disposing contaminated waste and water

Regarding countermeasures on designated waste, we have gathered the world's wisdom to improve our domestic technology on the removal of spent fuel and the treatment of molten fuel debris, and we will proceed to safely prevent the scattering of radioactive materials. As countermeasures on contaminated water, we strive to further improve the treatment of cleaned water since we are moving towards a stable and sustainable reconstruction.

220. Maintaining temporary storage facilities

Since the state, in cooperation with the prefecture and municipalities, is responsible for the maintenance of temporary storage facilities, we will discuss the issue with local residents in a careful manner, accelerate the acquisition of land and promote the development of facilities step by step.

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Regarding the transfer of contaminated soil, we will dispatch personnel and materials related to decommissioning. We will safely, efficiently and effectively proceed with pollution water countermeasures and the transportation rehabilitation project for neighboring towns and villages to finish these works before the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

221. Efficient decontamination

In addition to implementing efficient decontamination measures, we will emphasize individual doses and take detailed radiation protection measures to steadily cancel evacuations and residential restriction areas by March 2017 in accordance with the reconstruction progress.

222. Treatment of designated waste

Regarding the treatment of radioactive materials and contaminated waste (designated waste) in the prefecture of Fukushima, and by gaining the understanding of local communities, we will take all possible measures to ensure the security and safety of citizens and aim to establish early business starts in coordination with local residents.

Meanwhile, also for the five other affected prefectures, we will take every effort to resolve local concerns, including measures against ramification and local promotion measures, while continuing with careful coordinating adjustments in each prefecture.

223. Cancelling evacuation instructions

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

Therefore, we will support the improvement of the needed living environment and enhance individual dose reduction activities. We will also support the creation of autonomous communities that create employment by promoting the attraction of corporations and the resumption of farming.

In order to prepare the cancellation of evacuation instructions and residential restriction areas by March 2017, we will work with full power on sufficient decontamination and the restoration of the infrastructure, administrative services and various industries.

On the other hand, regarding measures on difficult-to-return areas, and while taking dose prospects into consideration, we will enable willing people to return home by advancing the publishing of maps on the reconstruction progress from a medium to long-term perspective.

Furthermore, we will continue to support reconstruction plans and other plans based on the local experiences of areas where evacuation instructions have already been canceled.

224. Supporting areas affected by the nuclear power plant accident

We will strengthen the efforts of the Fukushima Restoration Public-Private Partnership Team to innovate the Fukushima nuclear power plant and develop a cost and new energy society concept and will promptly respond to the restoration of the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry in cooperation with regional economies to create future prospects for people in the afflicted areas.

225. Nuclear damage compensations and independence support measures

We will endeavor to complete reparation payments as soon as possible since these are indispensable for restoring the livelihoods for residents who want to return to their homes or who want to start a new life.

In addition, we will further strengthen our support measures for independent living of affected residents, including the creation of employment by attracting companies and restarting farming.

226. Reputation damage countermeasures

We will widely disseminate information to local residents and the world on decontamination, the maintenance of temporary storage facilities and the cancellation of evacuation instructions to prevent severe rumor damage.

As part of rumor damage countermeasures, and in addition to announcing the results of inspections on radioactive substances in regional products, we are planning to introduce “safety and security seals” (dose-verifying certificates) and posters. By expanding sales channels, attracting domestic and overseas tourists to disaster areas and supporting industries damaged by rumors, we will expand the consumption of regional products both from inside and outside of the afflicted areas.

227. Responses to nuclear disasters and enhancing nuclear experts

In order to ensure the reliability of nuclear regulatory entities and to further improve nuclear regulations based on the latest international standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), we will establish comprehensive regulations responding to the evaluation service of the IAEA (IRRS), including the amendment of the regulatory law as necessary.

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Also, by adopting and training personnel with advanced knowledge on nuclear energy and radiation, we will strengthen and enhance the personnel of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and develop necessary examination and inspections systems as well as a nuclear disaster prevention system by empowering the whole nuclear regulatory organization. At the same time, we will further fortify 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 for local governments and the implementation of disaster prevention drills.

Furthermore, we will establish a new “regulation philosophy” of the regulatory work of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and will implement bold reforms of the nuclear regulatory culture.

228. International sharing of knowledge on nuclear power

We will promote the international sharing of knowledge gained from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident in order to contribute to improved nuclear regulations in Japan and to ensure the safety of other nations.

In addition, by investigating and publishing results on the long-term influence of radioactive substance diffusion on human bodies and ecosystems, we contribute to the safety of citizens’ lives and fulfill our responsibility to the world and future generations.

Furthermore, we will strengthen the training and overseas exchange of personnel and energy specialists.

229. Accelerating the research and development on the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster reactor by gathering domestic and international wisdom

We will expand our existing Fukushima nuclear power plant accident measures, such as environmental monitoring and the assistance for local residents and will promptly establish and disseminate effective decontamination methods that require new research and development, such as the post-treatment of nuclear accidents, the disposal of waste and radiation visualization technology.

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 decommission. In the future, in order to steadily advance the disposal of fuel, debris and radioactive waste and to accelerate the decommission, 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.

Security and counter-terrorism measures

230. Strengthening the structure to realize “the world’s safest Japan”

In order to ensure a safe public order, we will take measures against cyber-crime, organized crime and special fraud, and will strengthen the structural foundation of the prosecution based on the strategy to create “the world’s safest Japan”.

Also, regarding the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, we will promote efforts to prevent terrorism, promote research and consideration about the current situation in Japan and strengthen the information gathering and analysis system of related ministries and agencies.

Furthermore, in order to respond to cyber-attacks or terrorism in the cyber space, we will focus on the development of equipment and materials for related ministries and agencies and will secure and

foster specialized human resources while enhancing the information gathering and analysis system on tracking attacks, attackers and methods.

231. Enhancing firefighting and disaster prevention system to ensure thorough responses to large-scale terrorism and NBC attacks

In order to be able to appropriately respond to large-scale terroristic and NBC attacks while hosting large events such as the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, we will promote the development of firefighting vehicles and equipment and will improve specialized education and training to deal with large-scale terroristic and NBC disasters and to enhance the firefighting and disaster prevention system.

232. Supporting the formation of private safety systems

Dedicated activities of crime prevention volunteer or volunteer probation officers have supported Japan's good public order so far. The presence of such private safety systems can be regarded as a culture that Japan should be proud of. However, in recent years, the number of such volunteers has remained on a constant level so that the average age will rise and a decreasing number of private safety systems is becoming an obvious issue in the future.

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Therefore, our party aims to strengthen our private safety system by supporting sustainable street crime prevention activities, promoting the installation of street lights and security cameras at shopping streets, reducing the burden on officials and improving rehabilitation support centers.

233. Strengthening measures against cyber-crimes and other crimes that require new measures

In recent years, the threat of cyber-crimes and cyber-attacks has become more serious and responses to conflicts by organized crime groups and other threats, such as terrorist attacks, that threaten the lives of our citizens are vital.

Regarding these crimes, the gathering of evidence and information is more difficult compared to traditional crimes. Therefore, our party is working on eliminating illegal and harmful information in the cyber-space, actively utilize the Japan cyber-crime countermeasure center (Japanese version of the NCFTA), advance investigation methods and strengthen technological information gathering and analysis systems to take every effort to prevent cyber-crimes, organized crime and terrorist attacks.

234. Strengthening immigration measures and the information collection and analysis to prevent the entry of terrorists

In order to prevent the entry of terrorists to our nation, we will strengthen the intelligence function and facial image collation function of the immigration control system.

In addition, since the international terrorism situation and security environment is becoming more severe, we will further fortify the cooperation with affiliated organizations in other nations and enhance the securing and training of specialized human resources of related ministries and agencies.

235. Strengthening our intelligence

The threat of international terrorism is approaching Japan too, and since our neighboring countries have greatly increased their military capabilities, our security environment is rapidly becoming increasingly severe. Considering repeated actions that pose a serious threat to Japan, we will investigate the exact nature of the concerned countries and organizations by grasping the daily navigation of aircrafts and ships, precisely and quickly grasping the intentions and diplomatic as well as military activities in each neighboring country and grasping the intention of international terrorists. We will diversify and upgrade information gathering measures, strengthen the training of information collecting experts, analyze and evaluate information necessary so that the government crisis management can conduct policy judgement and provide responses by the SDF in a timely manner. We will strengthen our information collection and analysis capability on security by working on the construction of a human information network, enhancing the cooperation with foreign nations and expanding the necessary budget and structure of related organizations.

236. Establishing a reliable security infrastructure

There are incidents that threaten the safety and security of our citizens, such as senior citizens who suffer under special frauds, including money transfer fraud, women's safety is threatened by stalkers and prisoners commit crimes again. Our party aims to strengthen the necessary system to ensure the safety of our citizens' lives, by improving the skills of consultation workers, establishing a wide-area information management system and improving the skills of corrective staff.

In addition, it is urgent to strengthen security guards, for example around the Senkaku Islands and our surrounding waters, and we therefore aim to strengthen the structure of the legal and police department to establish an infrastructure to firmly protect the security of our nation and citizens.

237. Strengthening cyber-security measures

As we are entering the era of an "internet society", the utilization of IT is indispensable in all sectors for socio-economic activities, but cross-border cyber-attacks enable the obtaining of sensitive information of the government and enterprises and threats of attack on critical infrastructures directly linked to the thieving of technical information and people's lives are becoming increasingly serious. In order to comprehensively and effectively promote measures on cyber-security, our party has taken the initiative in establishing and passing the "Basic Law on Cyber-Security".

In the future, in accordance with the philosophy of this law, we will strengthen the related structure of the government, accelerate the training of human resources to support cyber-security measures and accelerate the improvement of our technical capabilities while also promoting comprehensive cyber-security measures in collaboration with various entities, including the industry, and supporting the nation, citizens and companies to utilize ICT with peace of mind to create a rich and convenient society.

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In particular, we will promote comprehensive measures on human resource development and IoT security by utilizing the NICT's large-scale exercise base to secure and enhance cyber-security in consideration of new IoT threats.

In addition, we promote drastic information security measures for local governments since cyber-attacks are rapidly becoming more complicated and sophisticated and risks may seriously affect the administration of local governments.

Furthermore, we strive to create a cooperative system based on the collaboration with foreign countries by establishing bilateral and multilateral policy dialogues between the government of Japan, the United States and ASEAN nations in the cyber field and by participating in international conferences and initiatives.

Therefore, we are currently improving the budget of the NPA, the Ministry of Defense and the Japan Coast Guards, since the budget is far inferior to that of advanced cyber nations, to expand our cyber defense forces and create a backup system as soon as possible. We will promote a mechanism to procure suitable products, devices and information equipment to enhance the cyber-security of government agencies.

Also, regarding our national security, we will provide sufficient budget to actively introduce technologies of developed cyber nations while boldly allocating budget to develop our own cyber-security technology.

238. Promoting the development of technology to deal with advanced cyber-attacks and gather evidence

Since cyber-attacks become more sophisticated nowadays, it is necessary to develop technologies to grasp the method and location of attackers to create effective measures. Therefore, we will actively utilize a more practical environment to encourage security companies to participate in the development of technology for grasping and defending threats.

239. Constructing a cyber-security ecosystem in the industrial sector

The cooperation mechanism against invisible hackers by the military, industry, government and academia is functioning. However, the cyber-security functions of key industries in Japan are scattered and there is no real ecosystem. To organically structure scattered functions and to activate the cyber-security ecosystem, we will clarify the core organizations that will be positions as commanding centers of our defense strategy in cooperation with overseas institutions.

240. Implementing continuous penetration tests of important infrastructures

It is essential to monitor the risk of sophisticated attacks every day by implementing continuous cyber-security measures on critical infrastructures and IoT systems. Via continuous penetration tests, we will advance the recognition of attack risks with the managerial level of companies and promote security measures.

Toughening our national territory

241. Accelerating the “toughening of our national territory” (strong and supple Japan) to protect the lives and wealth of our citizens

In order to protect the lives and property of citizens from various natural disasters, such as storm surges, earthquakes, tsunamis, torrential rain, heavy snowfall or landslides, we will carry out

preliminary disaster prevention and damage reductions as well as prompt recovery and reconstruction by implementing urgent measures for the aging social infrastructure, such as accelerating the earthquake resistance of houses, buildings, roads or ports and securing the redundancy (substitution) of emergency transportation and escape routes. We will also strongly promote disaster prevention and damage reduction measures, encompassing the improvement of tsunami evacuation facilities, the sophistication of the tsunami relief and observation system and strengthening the information transmission system.

In addition, in order to guarantee safe and secure Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will promote the toughening of the whole national land by maintaining and enhancing the capital's function and forming multifaceted land types, such as the Japan Sea Land Shaft and double logistic networks. Furthermore, we will adopt measures to toughen the national land as a development strategy of the regional economy and the creation of employment. Additionally, we will contribute to the international community by promoting the toughening of our national territory.

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In particular, we will promote the "National Territory Toughening Strategy" established in June 2014 based on the "Basic Law on National Territory Toughening".

Aside from prioritizing budget for measures on aging facilities based on the "Basic Plan of Establishing Infrastructure Longevity" formulated in November 2013, we will promote the safety and security of people's lives and wealth by implementing inspections, repairs and renewals of traffic facilities, such as aging bridges, port facilities and river management.

During the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster, local outsourcing organizations, such as the Tohoku Regional Bureau's operation "comb teeth" and the dispatching of the TEC-FORCE, played a major role in, for example, the facilitation of restoration by recovering emergency transportation roads. Regarding these local outsourcing organizations in regional areas, we plan to further strengthen their capability of responding to wide-area disasters by properly reviewing the division of roles between the national government, local governments and these organizations. In order to promptly reopen roads so that emergency transportation vehicles are able to function in the event of a large-scale disaster, we aim to strengthen our traffic system by enhancing the personnel structure of road managers as well as the equipment and material. In accordance with the "Tsunami Countermeasures Promotion Act", we will promote training and advance the idea of a "World Tsunami Day" to raise the awareness on tsunamis and disaster prevention.

242. Strengthening citizen friendly towns and the disaster-resistance of cities

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and in order to be prepared for large-scale natural disasters, we will enhance the disaster-resistance of aging facilities, the public transportation infrastructure and densely built urban areas and will promote disaster prevention measures, such as the improvement of the wide-area trunk network, space tracking, evacuation routes, storm surge countermeasures, tsunami evacuation facilities and coastal embankment.

We will promote the reconstruction after the landslides in the prefecture of Hiroshima in August 2014 based on the revised "Sediment Disaster Prevention Law". Also, based on the revised "Water

Supply and Sewerage Law” that was established last year in an ordinary Diet session, we will enhance the evacuation system for floods or domestic storms and will fortify flood control by utilizing river and dam improvement. We will also urgently promote urban flood control measures by improving sewerage system and construction super embankments in accordance to local opinions. Based on the lessons learned from the Kanto and Tohoku heavy rains in September 2015, we will combine the hardware and software of public officials to appropriately tackle disaster prevention and damage reduction measures.

Since heavy snowfalls is exceeding currently, we will create a system to temporarily support 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 developing wide-area disaster prevention center, constructing a management system, enhancing the weather, earthquake and volcano monitoring system and enrich emergency warning information on earthquakes or landslides.

Furthermore, aside from supporting efforts for disaster-resistant cities, we will realize a secure environment for bicycle riders and pedestrians by promoting the creation of compact cities, maintaining bicycle routes and enhancing public transportation to enable citizen friendly town planning for all residents to reach facilities by foot, bicycle or other transportation means. In order to attract value-added industries and talents, and to promote the competitiveness of international bases such as large cities like Tokyo, we encourage private investment in urban development and create a strategy for entire urban areas to support the living functions for foreigners and city sales.

Parallely, we will promote the simplification of information dissemination in the case of disasters, such as earthquakes or tsunamis, and provide a safe and secure evacuation of elderly or disabled people, children or pregnant women who need assistance in the event of disasters. Especially for people who have difficulties in obtaining information, such as visually handicapped or deaf people, we will provide information by various means, including letter, sounds, braille, symbols, sign language, recording, lights or vibration while considering the characteristics of various obstacles, to provide information in an easy-to-understand manner according to the actual situation, urgency and amount of information. We will prohibit the installation of electricity poles at emergency transportation roads and implement special measures on property taxes by promptly establishing the “Basic Electricity Pole Installation Bill” to create a standard environment without electric poles and wires and will thereby realize the initiative to become a pole-less nation.

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243. Enhancing regional disaster prevention in preparation for large-scale disasters, landslides and volcano eruptions

To be prepared for large-scale disasters, such as the Nankai Earthquake, we will greatly increase the number of emergency firefighting teams and will prepare the necessary vehicles and equipment to mitigate disaster damages.

Also, based on the “Law on Enriching and Strengthening Local Disaster Management Focused on Firefighting Units”, we will enhance and strengthen regional disaster prevention capabilities of firefighters who play a major role in securing the safety of local residents.

In addition to promoting awareness raising, we will enhance the recruitment and expand the opportunities for young people (students) and women to join firefighting units.

Furthermore, we will promote the standardization of disaster responses, the improvement of education sites and training of people engaged in disaster prevention and will consider the utilization of disaster materials and equipment in peaceful times for other fields.

In addition, in order to ensure the safety of mountaineers and others in volcanic areas, we promote the collection and transmission of volcanic disaster prevention information and the provision of evacuation shelters by local public entities and will enrich the equipment necessary for rescues.

We will expand the “emergency disaster prevention and disaster premium bonds” used by local government for evacuation to ensure the maintenance social functions of administrations and disaster-resistant city planning for residents.

244. Promoting urban disaster prevention

In order to protect the functions (including government functions) of large cities, especially in the three metropolitan areas with dense population, we will advance communication networks, implement measures for people who are unable to return home, enhance energy autonomy necessary for business continuity, improve the disaster-resistance of wooden housings in urban areas, secure disaster prevention and evacuation sites, conduct countermeasures for the flooding of residential areas and harbors and establish measures against the deterioration of the water supply and sewage system. We will promote the disaster resistance and disaster prevention of critical infrastructure in preparation for torrential rainfall, including the improvement of river and underground water sources control and will develop effective drainage facilities. By utilizing PPP projects, we will jointly renovate cities and expressways via integrated measures against the aging of metropolitan expressways and the promotion urban development.

Furthermore, we will maintain port functions, even if large-scale earthquakes occur, by supporting the formulation of port BCPs.

In addition, we will complete the Sabo dam to prevent flood damages in the Ichikawa area and respond to the water demand in the metropolitan area.

245. Promoting the cooperation of the G-space disaster prevention system and L alert

In order to realize a safe and disaster-resistant society utilizing G-space information (geospatial information), we will accelerate the deployment of the G-space disaster prevention system and L alert (disaster information sharing system) as the common foundation for simultaneously broadcasting information via various media. At the same time, by promoting the cooperation of the G-space disaster prevention system and L alert, we will realize the reduction of disaster damages, efficient disaster prevention work at local governments and the reduction of administrative costs.

246. Promoting R&D to create a toughened society against large-scale natural disasters, volcanic eruptions, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, heavy rainfall and landslides

To protect the lives and property of citizens from disasters, we will promote R&D to build a society with minimized damages, quick recovery and strengthened disaster prevention and damage reduction measures.

We will establish a nationwide observation system for natural disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, while implementing measures against huge anticipated disasters such as the Nankai Earthquake and countermeasures regarding eruptions at Mount Ontake and Kuchinoerabujima. We will promote R&D on observation, prediction, forecasting and countermeasure technology by enriching the capital for R&D and will realize high-precision damage prediction necessary for evacuation and business continuity especially during earthquakes in the capital city. By promoting these efforts, we thereby aim to maintain a safe, secure and stable society. Furthermore, we will enhance the toughening of our nation by promoting technology that minimizes disaster damages, and by promoting disaster prevention science and technology that enables quick recovery and reconstruction after disasters.

247. Enhancing the function and productivity of the social infrastructure management

In order to improve the productivity of economic activities and realize a robust economic growth, we will promote the improvement of social capital stock.

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Therefore, based on the priority plan for social capital improvement, we will promote the selections and concentration on new investment fields and will make full use of the functions as well as existing facilities of a toughened state, such as economic growth, improvement of life quality and security. Aside from advancing these efforts, we will systematically provide the necessary public investment in a stable and sustainable manner to secure on-site personnel and skilled human resources.

We also promote the development and introduction of advanced technologies, such as robots, that are useful for the quick management of disasters and an accurate construction of the social infrastructure.

248. Improving the core road network in our nation like promised to the 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. 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.

249. Improving the comprehensive transportation system

Based on the Basic Traffic Policy Law, we formulated a basic traffic policy plan and promote the planning of comprehensive and systematic transportation policies. 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, ports 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. Also, in order to advance the high-speed bus network, we will improve the connection of stations and will convert these to “road stations” as a connecting base for improving of buses usage in regional areas.

Concerning the maintenance of Shinkansen and the realization of high-speed trains, 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 as soon as possible. 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.

Furthermore, we will work on building a trunk line railway network that contributes to regional creation, including basic routes planning. We will also try to reduce the local burden due to conventional lines. We will realize high-speed trains by time zone classification from spring 2018 onwards and will continue to study measures for a new operation system.

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. Regarding the express home delivery service, we will promote the improved convenience for consumers by diversifying receipt methods.

250. 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 for foreign travelers. 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.

Regarding the maritime industry that supports Japan's economy and growth, we will strengthen the international competitiveness of the shipbuilding industry, secure stable transportation, advance an excellent ship supply and revitalize domestic and international shipping. In addition, it is necessary to secure port functions, improve the access to ports, improve port operation efficiency, improve the service level, advance the utilization of ICT and improve the industrial location environment to respond to large standard vessels and cruise 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 competitiveness by transitioning to national management and unifying maritime traffic control. Additionally, we will maintain port functions even in the case of large-scale earthquakes by enhancing the disaster response capabilities of harbors as a lifeline of the Japanese industry. Furthermore, we aim to renovate aging port facilities and secure a safe industrial and logistic infrastructure by enhancing the disaster prevention functions of coastal areas which are vulnerable to typhoons.

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

251. Strengthening the information 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.

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Establishing a social security system

252. Enhancing social security

We will build a sustainable social security system by combining “self-help” and “independence” with “community support” and “official assistance” in local communities and social insurance premiums. We will ensure financial sources for consumption tax funding to ensure social security for everyone and we will comprehensively enrich childcare support, medical care, nursing care and pensions.

[Childcare and child rearing]

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

Based on the enactment of the new “childcare and child rearing support system” in April 2015, we will secure the necessary budget to support all child rearing families and will realize the improved quality of early childhood education, nursery care and local child rearing support.

254. Accelerate efforts to resolve *taikijidou*

Regarding nursing care, by constantly endeavoring to improve and expand 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:

- Based on the “accelerated *taikijidou* elimination plan”, we aim to secure and increase the number of childcare employees from 400.000 to 500.000 by 2017.
- Improving various care services, such as company-led childcare and nursing care
- Further improving the treatment of nursery teachers (additional wage increases of 2% to eliminate differences with competitive industries to secure skilled and experienced staff)
- Offering comprehensive support by nursing employment assistants and improving the work environment by utilizing ICT while also promoting employment and preventing job leaving by comprehensively realizing the target of improving the nursery personnel allocation
- Improving personnel and institutional standards at nursery schools
- Realizing appropriate childcare times to match full-time and part-time employment of parents

Based on article 24 of the “Child Welfare Law”, we will adhere to the obligation of providing municipal nursing care by examining national subsidies for administrative expenses of private childcare centers and expenses for facility maintenance.

255. 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
- Improving comprehensive counseling support from pregnancy to child rearing by maintaining child rearing support centers
- Securing obstetric medical institutions to enable mothers to give birth in residential areas
- Improving the birth environment by establishing and improving the perinatal medical care network
- 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

- Supporting the improvement of the childcare menu system, including postnatal childcare, temporary childcare, regional childcare support centers and family support centers
- Establishing a mechanism to protect the lives of infants, including the enhancement of preventing and awareness-raising on infectious diseases affecting the growth of children and improving pediatric medical care
- Improving infant's health examination and developing a system for the early detection of developmental disorders

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- Examining the support for families with children at elementary and junior high schools by enhancing school enrollment and improving after-school plans
- In order to break down the barrier for families with both parents working, and to foster the talent of the next generation, we will proceed to support school facilities to offer integral after-school classes and to conduct various experiential activities to enable all school children to spend safe and secure after-school 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. Furthermore, regarding after-school children's clubs, we examine ways to realize the additional elimination of preliminary receptacles.

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 married childbirth leave system (8819 movement) to encourage companies to offer opportunities for childcare leave and not take advantage of these parents and to promote a society for parents to easily rear zero-year-old children
- Maintaining a workplace environment for parents to combine childcare leave and short-time work
- To enable single parent households, with various economic difficulties, to acquire qualifications, we will offer one-stop consultation and education support, increase benefits, establish loans and increase child support allowances by the "Rapid Support Project".
- 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"
- By expanding the Mothers Hello Work system, we will try to improve the childrearing environment by proactively supporting reemployment after childbirth.

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

In cooperation with related organizations, such as the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, we will create an efficient mechanism for an early detection of child abuse by providing nationwide consultation center and improving the convenience the common dial 189 of children's counselors. In addition, based on the revised "Child Welfare Act", we will conduct training for an early detection for health care professionals and will enforce a smooth and steady mechanism to receive notifications. We will also actively develop awareness-raising activities to protect children's growth and prevent abuse.

257. 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.

[Pensions, medical care and nursing care]

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

In order to curb the rise of annual pension rates, we permanently cover one-half of the pension expenses since 2014 and will thereby realize a sustainable pension system, work on securing the benefit level of young people and create a pension system to relieve both young and elderly people. 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 while also reviewing the current old-age pension system since the amount of payments will decrease.

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Regarding the expansion of the scope of employee insurances (including medical and nursing care) to part-time and non-regular employees, we will relax the requirements to subscribe to employee insurances in order to expand the scope of companies that agreed to labor-management in October 2016 from companies with more than 501 employees to companies with fewer than 500 employees. We will also continue considering its impact on employment and management.

Pension premiums will be partially exempted in order to alleviate the financial burden of self-employed people and certain short-time workers.

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.

Since its independent operation in 2001, the pension reserve fund has accumulated a surplus of about 50 trillion yen. In order to ensure its safe and efficient operation, we will review the organization corporation (GPIF) that specializes in managing reserve funds.

We will regain confidence in pensions by implementing security measures as well as by clarifying the pension record problem and resolving it by constructing an information system that does not violate personal pension information.

259. Realizing sustainable and reliable medical care for our citizens

We will implement the following measures to ensure the necessary medical care in communities so that citizens can receive high-quality medical treatment in familiar areas 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 realization of regional medical concepts and framework to secure the necessary medical faculty capacity 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 training 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
- Enhancing and strengthening regional occupational health centers, including the cooperation of psychiatrists

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 actively promote the prevention and early detection of diseases by implementing guidance measures, such as granting incentives to consultants to formulate preventive medical programs, promoting active medical examinations and promoting specified health examination and guidance, to extend the life expectancy and health care.

We will increase the use of generic drugs, suppress double medical examination (overdose), improve the range of medical treatments covered by insurances, such as meal supply benefits (excluding medically necessary items) and will thereby suppress the financial burden of insurance premiums on citizens.

In order to stabilize the operation of the National Health Insurance and to strengthen its functions, we will expand the fiscal support and broaden the operation unit from municipal to prefecture.

Also, to correct the gap between the public and private sector, we will promote the integration of mutual aid associations and *kenpo* associations and will try to eliminate excessive disparities in rates of the employee insurance while maintaining the functions of insurer.

In addition, measures will be taken to alleviate the burden incurred due to the application of short-term workers to the medical care system from October 2016 onwards.

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 and will thereby stabilize the insurance system.

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By evaluating the current recuperation, we will expand the opportunities of patients by the newly established patient recuperation offer so that patients can use advanced pharmaceuticals and medical equipment as soon as possible.

Furthermore, we introduced a mechanism for clinical trials to be conducted from a humanitarian point of view (Japanese compassionate use) to improve the access to investigational drugs and the early introduction of medical equipment or regenerative medicine. This will simplify the use of drugs that have not yet been approved for patients who are desperately suffering, on the premise of ensuring safety and effectiveness.

Regarding medical services for elderly people, we will combine services, such as pensions, medicine or nursing care, according to their individual situation and ensure the availability of services. In addition, since some medical insurers are already increasingly encouraging to efforts for self-help health for young and middle-aged people via the Cafeteria Plan (selective welfare system), we will also promote its popularization.

Regarding the consumption tax on medical treatment, we will grasp the actual condition accurately to be able to take appropriate measures, while also considering comprehensive taxation measures.

Since public hospitals play a central role in regional medical care and especially in depopulated areas, we promote management efficiency of obstetric departments, pediatrics and emergency medical care departments and will take the situation of local private medical systems into consideration. Therefore, we will provide appropriate financial support by local tax allocation and endeavor to improve management soundness as well as regional medical care.

We will ensure the smooth enforcement of the medical corporation system by promoting the collaboration of regional medical care facilities.

We aim to improve the life expectancy rate by creating an emergency medical system that ensures the admission of emergency patients in medical intuitions all over our nation by improving the structure of doctor helicopters.

In order to ensure the safety of hospitalized patients, we will further promote the maintenance of fire prevention facilities (sprinkler, fire alarm devices, etc.) at small and medium-sized hospitals as well as clinics.

260. Promoting research and development on medical instruments and devices

We will promote R&D and the dissemination of medical devices based on the “Basic Law to Promote Research and Development and the Dissemination of Medical Equipment” to improve the quality of medical care for the public. Based on the “Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Law” (former Pharmaceutical Affairs Law), which encompasses the creation of institutions based on the characteristics of medical devices, we will advance the approval and reviewing and will establish a system to use overseas medical equipment to eliminate the current situation that pharmaceuticals and medical equipment cannot promptly be introduce in Japan. We will promote the development and prompt introduction of medical devices that are expected to meet medical needs effectively, and will therefore establish a “priority examination and designation system”.

261. 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 regenerative medical products, we will support research on regenerative medicine, including the realization of high-quality regenerative medicine and the priority examination and designation system. Thereby, we will take measures for the development and practical use of regenerative medicine ahead from the rest of world and promote efforts to improve the quality of medical care, health and sanitation for our citizens.

262. Enhancing cancer countermeasures

In order to respond to the needs of citizens for specialized medical care for cancer or heart diseases, we will urgently and intensively 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 will accelerate measures to reduce cancer deaths by improving cancer screening examinations, promoting the consultation by family doctors on “prevention”, “treatment and research” and the “symbiosis of cancer”, promoting genomic cancer medicine, providing information on medical treatment and promoting palliative care as well as consultation support at cooperative cancer hospitals.

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 to standardize medical cancer care. We will promote comprehensive and systematic measures against cancer by consolidating functional collaboration and differentiation regarding the treatment of diseases, the formulation of a strategy for specialized doctors, the formulation of a new cancer research strategy and the employment support by combining cancer hospitals and the Hello Work program.

Also, based on the “Law on Promoting Cancer Registration”, we will analyze cancer patient information from nationwide medical institutions and will analyze the occurrence, survival rate and early detection rate of cancer. Thereby, it will become possible to provide appropriate cancer control measures based on data and to improve the quality of medical cancer care. We will further promote efforts to collect highly accurate cancer information throughout Japan.

263. Enhancing countermeasures on infectious diseases

In recent years, the risk of infectious diseases has increased and as internationalization progresses, new infectious diseases are rising in Japan, such as the domestic occurrence of dengue, the bird flu (H7N9), the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and the overseas occurrence of Ebola. In order to promptly enhance our countermeasures on infectious diseases in Japan, and to ensure the safety of our citizens, we have established a bill to amend the Infectious Disease Act.

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.

In preparation for the occurrence of infectious diseases in our nation, we will promote the strengthening on the inspection system for highly dangerous infections, as well as BSL4 facilities and will develop a thorough testing and research system at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. By positioning the Nagasaki University as the research base for the study of infectious diseases and BSL4 facilities, we will provide the necessary support for consultation to obtain the understanding of local entities and facilitate them accordingly.

We will endeavor to disseminate the required information to prevent the occurrence of infectious diseases in our nation, such as the *jikairusu* disease, as well as infectious diseases prevalent in Latin America and the United States.

In preparation for new threats, including a new outbreak of influenza (derived from highly pathogenic Asian influenza, etc.), we will develop a system in all administrative organs, local governments and companies for the protection of our citizens based on the “Law on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and Other Infectious Diseases”.

264. Promoting vaccine measures

Since diseases can be actively prevented by vaccinations, and regarding health security, we will promote R&D on vaccines and aim to maintain and enhance the supply of vaccines.

In order to eliminate so-called “vaccine gaps” which describe that in Japan there are fewer vaccinated citizens than in other developed countries, we aim to add the new Hepatitis B vaccine to the periodic public vaccinations in October 2016.

Furthermore, we aim to establish and promote a system of a new vaccine policy, such as promoting the prevention of infectious diseases and mumps vaccine as well as the rotavirus vaccine.

After gathering information on side effects of vaccinations, we will periodically analyze and evaluate these by experts and actively disseminate information.

265. Enriching the communication of healthcare and medical information

It is an urgent matter to promote measures on the prevention of diseases and infectious diseases to protect public health and ensure safe and secure lives. We will therefore organize and evaluate the dissemination of medical information and try to improve the communication system to share correct information.

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266. Implementing a medical accident investigation system

It is vital to prevent the recurrence of medical accidents to ensure medical safety. Therefore, we will continue implementing a medical accident investigation system based on the revised medical law. We will also review this system according to its implementation status.

267. 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. In addition to promoting the enforcement of the Basic Law on Promoting Disease Investigation, we will actively examine necessary measures, such as Ai (image diagnosis after deaths), establish a model on the investigation of child death cases and strengthen the nationwide postmortem examination structure.

268. Promoting medical care and mental health

We will further promote the improved quality of citizens’ mental health and medical welfare.

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.

Based on the Law on Promoting Measures against the Discrimination Due to Disabilities (Disability Discrimination Law), we will endeavor to disseminate information and education to eliminate the discrimination of people with mental disorders.

We also encourage support for the independence and social participation of disabled people and aim to realize a symbiotic society for disabled people to live a stable life in local communities.

Furthermore, regarding the provision of services to support local lives of long-term hospitalized people, we are trying to secure housings in communities and will improve the efficiency of psychiatric medical treatments by appropriately improving the quality and differentiating of psychiatric departments.

269. Promoting dementia measures

In order to support the daily lives of people suffering from dementia, we will establish a new comprehensive strategy, including early diagnosis, to steadily differentiate dementia departments so that they can respond appropriately to all conditions of this disease, such as physical complications, mental symptoms and behavioral complication, 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.

270. 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, expand the related educational content 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.

271. Enhancing the development of national dental care

We will enhance healthy lives of citizens by developing dental medical care and oral health and will thereby contribute to social longevity.

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 dental health guidance and dental examinations to specific health checkups (measures against metabolic syndrome) and improve our citizens’ quality of lives (QOL).

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

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We will enrich visiting dental services for elderly and handicapped people, including the necessary support for care recipients, and create a medical collaboration environment with mutual professions.

In addition, in order to maintain and promote the visiting dental care system in a stable manner, we will secure dental professionals and improve their labor environment.

272. 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 amend the related law, which prolongs the deadline for claims, to carry out further efforts to resolve hepatitis B and C lawsuits.

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

Based on the Law on Medical Care for Patients with Intractable Diseases, regarding intractable diseases and specific chronic diseases of children, we will implement appropriate medical expense subsidies and secure the consultation support system. In addition to improving employment support and independence support, we will promote R&D on diagnostic and therapeutic methods for infectious diseases and pediatric chronic diseases by developing support for the application of new pharmaceuticals and treatments, while also advancing comprehensive measures on medical treatment, welfare and employment.

274. 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.

Based on the “Basic Law on Allergy Measures, we will prepare basic policies and promote comprehensive measures against allergic diseases by improving the treatment system, consultation system and related research.

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

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

Based on the pharmacies’ vision formulated in October last years, 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 pharmaceutical labor division. We will also promote pharmacists’ postgraduate training and support pharmacies that actively support the maintenance of local health for local residents.

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).

276. 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.

In order to eradicate drugs, such as stimulating drugs or cannabis, we will expand the inspection system of the Drug Enforcement Department and increase the number of drug regulators and customs officials. Based on the “Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Law” (former Pharmaceutical Affairs 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.

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277. 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 as well as municipalities.

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.

Furthermore, in order to promote self-medication and proper health management, we will introduce a system (special exemption of medical expense deduction) to deduct the expenses of OTC medicine for people undergoing medical examination or vaccination in 2017.

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

We will carry out support measures to promote industry-academia collaboration, open innovation and internationalization to strengthen the pharmaceutical development ability of the pharmaceutical industry and thereby further contribute to the national supply of medicine. In addition, we aim to permanently introduce a promotion system to create new medicines and eliminate the adaptation of overseas pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, we will enhance measures that contribute to a stable supply of basic pharmaceuticals. Also, in order to promote long-term research and development investment, we will promote the utilization of the R&D tax system and enhance the assessment of innovations. Regarding the revision of the drug pricing system, we will implement annual drug price evaluations to eliminate the lag and enhance the international competitiveness of the chemistry and pharmaceutical industry. Furthermore, we will promote the use of generic drugs and self-medication to improve medical efficiency and maintain public health.

279. Enhancing the distribution system of pharmaceuticals

We will establish the traceability of pharmaceuticals, promote new influenza and pandemic countermeasures and enhance the crisis management system, including the securing of gasoline and power during disasters, to realize a safe and reliable distribution of medicine. In addition, based on the comprehensive strategy for strengthening the pharmaceutical industry, we will steadily improve the distribution system of pharmaceuticals.

280. Strengthening the rehabilitation system

In order to realize a society for everyone to live comfortably and actively, we will strengthen the rehabilitation provision system and promote team medicine based on the consistent cooperation of medical care and nursing care. We also strive to extend the healthy life expectancy of elderly people by implementing appropriate exercises.

281. Promoting *kanpou* medicine

We will promote research on traditional *kanpou* medicine to establish scientific bases as well as education and training for instructors or clinicians. We will support the creation of an environment that enables a stable supply of *kanpou* medicine.

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

In order to enable citizens to conduct self-health-management, we will provide appropriate information on general health foods to enable citizens to select their food wisely and will develop a health food market that responds to the needs of citizens who strive for healthy longevity.

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

Integrated medicine and medical care aims to prevent diseases, promotes health, supports the improvement of lifestyles and focuses on supportive medicine for an improved quality of life (QOL) and life expectancy. Specifically, we will support all integrated activities that promote health, such as traditional medicine, *kanpou* medicine, acupuncture, moxibustion, food safety and education, as well as medical activities related to an improved living environment and social environment contributing to health.

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 and thereby aim for the optimization of surging medical expenses, the reduction of disparities of average and healthy life expectancy and the creation of permanent assistance for elderly and young people.

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Integrated medicine operates in accordance with the “social determinants of health” of the WHO and the UN “sustainable development goals” as well as “conditions of the social, economic and political environment.

We urge to establish the “Integrated Medical Care Promotion Basic Law” (provisional name) in the future and thereby seek to promote and support integrated medical care in line with the basic philosophy of the government’s efforts.

284. Promoting town development contributing to healthy and high-quality living

Health problems of local residents to not only derive from individuals’ “mental and physical health”, but also from various factors surrounding residents, such as the society, culture and urban development. We will actively promote effective town planning to ensure the health of individuals, families and communities by supporting municipalities on the creating of health cities and smart wellness cities like promoted by the WHO.

285. 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.

Based on the “zero nursing career leaves” strategy, we aim to resolve certain nursing care problems by 2020, such as the unavailability of nursing care services, the loss of nursing care workers who are forced to leave and elderly people having to enter special nursing homes despite the possibility to receive home care.

Since securing care workers is an urgent issue, we will establish a career-up mechanism to eliminate wage differences to other industries and will work on improving the treatment of care workers. In addition, we strive to enhance the qualifications of care workers, who play a core role, by advancing the labor division of care workers and “expanding the supply” via the entry of diverse human resources.

We will take comprehensive personnel securing measures, including the recruitment of career changer, promoting the entry of diverse human resources, such as young people, women or middle-aged and elderly people, establishing career paths, improving the attractiveness of nursing care work and improving the labor environment efficiency.

Also, in order to improve the availability of nursing care in all regions, including special nursing care, we will proceed to offer financial support for the maintenance of special facilities, group homes and housings for elderly people and the service of nursing care workers.

In response to the needs of residents and local governments, we will develop “multi-disciplinary specialists” so that elderly people can receive necessary care at an appropriate financial rate, while taking the protection of privacy into consideration.

At the same time, to ensure that elderly people can receive satisfactory nursing care services and live with peace of mind in communities, we will make effective use of existing facilities, such as the three nursing care insurance facilities, and strengthen home care services, 24-hours visiting nursing care and small-scale nursing care. We will develop a comprehensive regional care system that relieves insecurities about regional nursing care by improving multifunctional in-home care, periodic visits, medical examinations at home and enriching the safety net function to enable living with peace of mind.

Based on the amendment of the Long-Term Care Insurance Law, we will secure the functions of medical sanitary care facilities until 2017 and conduct necessary reviews.

We will promote the creation of mechanisms for the occurrence of major disasters, such as the creation of support teams for local governments and related organization and the admission of patients at medical facilities to support those in need of care.

Based on the “Care Prevention and Comprehensive Daily Life Support Project” that was gradually enforced in 2015, we will promote the utilization of regional resources, such as nursing care volunteers.

286. Extended use of nursing care support specialists

To enable individuals in need of medical care, nursing care or welfare services to receive services that are not excessive or insufficient and to live an active life, we will establish proper care management by nursing care support specialists (care manager).

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Therefore, we will promote independent and neutral management by deregulating the remuneration of in-home long-term care support officers. In addition to enhancing the training system, we will also develop a system that provides high-quality nursing care services by strengthening and revitalizing the functions of facilities and home care services for self-reliance support and returning home of patients, while including home care services into the nursing care insurance.

In order to realize these efforts, we aim to nationally standardize qualified nursing care support professionals who are responsible for the social security system. Regarding the in-home nursing care support expenses, we will adhere to the current system that covers the full amount via the nursing care insurance so that everyone can receive care equally.

287. Supporting home care

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

By doing so, we will increase diverse care opportunities and improve the productivity of services, including nursing care insurances. In order to prevent the operation of each authority delegation of municipalities to become a bottleneck for in-home nursing care, we will try to optimize the operation via decentralization.

288. 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.

289. Promoting measures for disabled people

To realize a symbiotic society for disabled people to live with peace of mind, we enforced the Law Promoting Measures Against the Discrimination of Disabled People (Law on Eliminating the Discrimination of Disabled People) in April and will steadily enact the “Law for the Promotion of Rehabilitation of Disabled People”. Also, we will work on further promoting sports, arts and cultural activities for handicapped and disabled people in anticipation of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

In order to realize a “society of 100 million active citizens”, we will strive to further enhance welfare services and respond to the diversified needs of disabled people in accordance with the individual

situation of each disabled person and child by amending the “Law on Comprehensive Support for Disabled People” to enable them so live and work independently. Furthermore, we will endeavor to steadily implement the “Disability Priority Procurement Act” (Heart Purchasing Law) formulated by our party.

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.

In addition, in order to further advance the utilization of the adult guardianship system, we will promote related initiatives, including legal developments, to realize a community life that appropriately considers the conditions of disabled people. Furthermore, since mentally disabled people will be added to the calculation of the statutory employment rate in 2018, we will promote the discussion and reviewing of the employment rate.

Additionally, in order to promote support that allows people with developmental disabilities to live peacefully in all regions, we will review medical welfare measures and promote the regional transition of mental health care for mentally disabled people.

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

290. 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 are able to work, we will encourage employment by utilizing job seekers support system to urge prospective employees to get to work. Also, in order to realize a “lifelong active society”, we support companies to extend the retirement age of 65 years and continue employment after the age of 65 and will offer career support for elderly people who wish to work and provide diverse employment opportunities by utilizing the Hello Work program and Silver Human Resource Center.

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In order to accurately offer living support to low-income elderly people according to their actual situation, we will make use of NPOs who are familiar with the support of people in need of living support and implement measure for low-income people, such as welfare benefits. In addition, in order to respond to single elderly people and nursing care for old people, we will promote the development of nursing homes, group homes and special facilities for elderly people.

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.

291. 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 this system and gain the understanding of taxpayers.

Therefore, based on the Livelihood Protection Law revised in 2013, we will focus on health and living support measures for those who cannot maintain their livelihood by self-help efforts and will promote independent working and living 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 expand the manpower of case workers.

In order to promote autonomous daily lives by poor people, we will steadily implement the “Independence of People Living in Poverty Support Law” which came into effect in 2015 and aim to establish self-contained consultation support projects by local governments and strive to enhance the learning assistance for children living in poor families, including households receiving welfare assistances, such as the payment of housing benefits and conducting employment preparation support. Also, by enhancing welfare services and support, we aim to provide comprehensive consultation support and further welfare services for everyone, regardless of age or possible disabilities.

292. 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 is increasing.

Therefore, we will smoothly and steadily implement the revised “Social Welfare Law” and will take incorporating measures, such as strengthening the governance of social welfare corporations and improving their transparency and will thereby continue to respond to the welfare needs of communities and public expectations.

293. Supporting atomic bomb victims

Since Japan is the only nation hit by atomic bombs in human history, we will promote support measures for atomic bomb victims and survivors.

294. Supporting Japanese national residing in China

In addition to various support measures, including living support, for Japanese nationals living in China, we established the spousal support fund in October 2014 but will continue to promote detailed measures as incentives to return to Japan in the future.

295. 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 the public’s convenience and we will steadily promote its establishment in the future.

296. Promoting safe and secure living sanitation services

We aim to revitalize the Living Sanitation Marketing Instruction Center and the Living Sanitation Fellowship Association to ensure the provision of safe and secure daily sanitation services. In addition to ensuring the sanitary environment of buildings, we will endeavor to enhance the financing by the Japan Finance Corporation to cope with rising energy costs.

297. Supporting *judo* therapy

We will aim to institutionalize postgraduate clinical training and properly review *judo* therapy medical expenses. In addition, we will clarify the role of *judo* therapists in the regional care system.

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298. 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.

299. Actively utilizing dieticians and nutritionists

We will establish a system that provides appropriate nutrition management for home care recipients and elderly people, who are supposed to increase, and therefore actively utilize dieticians, nutritionists and nutrition manager helping to save lives.

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

We actively promote employment support according to the individual situation of young people, 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.

In addition, we will support hard-working individuals, for example regarding the balance of work and family by expanding the childcare leave and nursing care system and will improve the working environment corresponding to the globalization of the economy and a vibrant society.

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

We will encourage and support 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, reduce the number of irregular workers and to realize concrete policies to set a numerical target of converting to regular employment in the next five years. We strongly promote our efforts based on the "regular employment conversion and treatment improvement reform plan", to create employment opportunities, stabilize employment, realize career improvement and create full-time employment for dispatched workers. We will promote vocational ability development by enhancing the vocational ability evaluation system, utilizing job cards and career consulting, establish vocational training based on industrial needs and create a matching system leading to employment.

We will also promote smooth recruitment to regain economic growth as well as to maintain and expand regular employment. Therefore, while seeking to optimize subsidies to support labor migration, we will utilize the reemployment and career change support system, including specialized practical education and training benefits.

In order to broaden the opportunities of diverse and flexible working styles for women and young people, we will realize the same wage for same labor and improve the treatment of non-regular employees. Therefore, while paying attention to employment practices in Japan, we will prepare to amend related laws and establish guidelines to indicate invalid treatment differences as soon as possible.

We have raised the minimum wage about 50 yen in the past three years, but we are planning to increase the annual rate of about 3% and will raise the nationwide minimum wage by 1.000 yen while trying to improve transaction conditions and transfer prices to improve the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises.

302. 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 ingenu 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 and the matching functions of the Hello Work program, we will expand the support for companies that work on establishing workplaces for new employees and respond to job seekers’ needs.

303. Reviewing working styles

To realize a society for each individual to be active, and in addition to tackling the reduction of temporary work, we will also review the working hours legislation to harmonize work and private life. Therefore, we will strengthen the supervision of the Labor Standards Inspection Office to raise the extra wage for overtime work and to review the working hours legislation to increase the option of diverse and flexible working styles.

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In addition, we will reexamine the 36th agreement on overtime regulation.

304. Implementing employment measures for young people and new graduates

While the number 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. In cooperation with schools, we will provide employment support for new graduates via the Hello Work system and thereby aim for 100% full-time employment at regular jobs as first positions for graduates. We will continue to work on the Youth Employment Promotion

Act, which includes the provision of workplace information and support for young people's choice of work. Furthermore, in addition to supporting young people to convert from irregular to full-time employment via the Hello Work system, we will strengthen measures against companies suspected of "disposing" young people.

305. Securing an appropriate pension level

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

306. 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.

307. Enriching consumer administration

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, in order to safeguard consumers' safe and secure lives, 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 regional services.

308. Enhancing policies to protect consumers

We will proceed with the development of exceptional procedures for consumer trials as a remedy to prevent unjustifiable labeling by imposing surcharges on business operators and ensuring the appropriate operation of the food labeling system and will thereby minimize the number of victims. In addition to promoting consumer-oriented management of business operators, we will improve the effectiveness of the whistleblower protection system and by building mutual trust between consumers and business operators, we will revitalize the economy.

In addition, by promoting "consumer education", we will develop self-reliant consumers who can act autonomously and rationally, while preventing consumer damages and creating a fair and sustainable social environment.

309. 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.

310. Enhancing the system to protect the rights and national interests of our citizens

To prevent juridical conflicts and international legal conflicts and to protect the rights and national interests of our citizens by the rule of law, we will strengthen the function and enhance the ability of clerical personnel of the secretariat of the Ministry of Justice, including support for dispute resolutions and the strengthened cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies.

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311. Sound development of young people

In order to strengthen the social environment for a healthy development of young people, we will formulate the “Basic Law for Young People Development”. We also promote policies to protect young people from delinquency and crimes due to the IT development.

312. Enhancing the support for the activities of private citizens involved in rehabilitation work

Regarding rehabilitation protection activities of civilians, such as volunteer probation officers supporting proper public order, rehabilitation women associations, BBS associations, cooperating employers and rehabilitation guards associations, we will further enhance their functions and will increase the number of rehabilitation protection centers, which are activity bases in regional areas, and will work on creating an environment for private collaborations to operate smoothly in the future. In addition, we will strengthen public relation activities, including the education of the society, as a nationwide movement to build a community without crime and for people who committed crime to be re-accepted in our society.

313. Strengthening measures to prevent repeat offenders by securing jobs and residences for former prisoners

In order to steadily secure residences and jobs in the society for former prisoners, we will promptly promote the improvement of correctional facilities and prison officials as the foundation of preventing the repetition of offenses.

In addition, we will enrich the financial support for employers as the “employment incentive payment system” and expand the prefectural “rehabilitation care work support project” to the national level.

We will increase the employment of former prisoners and strengthen the functions of private offender rehabilitation facilities.

314. Enriching the adult guardianship system

The adult guardianship system supplements people’s ability to judge and act and terminates with the death of the guarded person, the adult guardianship safeguards people who lose legal representation.

However, it is not unusual for a guardian of an adult to be required to respond to hospitalization expenses, debt payments, cremation of the remains and funeral expenses after the adult ward dies.

In order to solve these problems, the party proposed a bill to amend part of the Civil Code and the Domestic Procedure Act and issued these to the House of Representative on April 6th and it will be passed in enacted on October 13th to facilitate the affairs of adult guardianship.

This enforcement enables guardians to administer postal matters (postal transfer) and clarifies entitlements of adult guardians after the death of adult wards (acts necessary for preserving property and heritage, payment obligation, concluding contract for the cremation or burial of the bodies, and other acts necessary for preserving inherited property).

315. Enhancing and strengthening comprehensive legal assistance

In order to resolve obstacles for citizens' access to judicial assistance, we will enrich the operation system of the Japan Judiciary Support Center and will promote its Judicial Social Work (actively encouraging the cooperation of welfare agencies and other organizations to support comprehensive problem solving, including legal issues).

316. Promoting judicial diplomacy

By strengthening the Japanese judicial system as an important soft power and in anticipation of the "2020 Congress" (United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Meeting), we will comprehensively and strategically promote diverse international initiatives that disseminate universal values, such as the "rule of law" and "respect for basic human rights", to the world by conducting judicial diplomacy.

317. Examining family-related issues

We will deepen the discussion with citizens on various family-related problems, such as surnames and parentage of couples at the time of marriage.

318. Efforts to eliminate human rights violations

As human rights violations, our party newly added (1) hate speech, (2) age discrimination, (3) the discrimination of *buraku*.

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Regarding hate speech, the Law to Eliminate Hate Speech" has already been established by the Diet and the law age discrimination problem has been summarized and will be formally addressed.

Regarding the discrimination of buraku, we submitted the "Law on Eliminating the Discrimination of Buraku" to the Diet, but since the deliberation prolongs, we aim to establish this law in the next extraordinary Diet session.

319. Promoting the understanding of sexual orientations and sexual recognition

By pursuing a legislation aimed at promoting broad and correct understanding of sexual orientation recognition, we promote policies on which each ministry and agency should cooperate, to realize a society that accepts diversity.

320. Reducing the number of traffic accident deaths and injuries

In 2015, 4.117 people were killed by traffic accidents and more than half of the people killed by traffic accidents are elderly people.

Therefore, our party cooperates with volunteers on functionally differentiating living roads from main roads and conducting safety measures, including traffic safety measures for school roads and traffic safety education for elderly people. By doing so, we will secure the safety of traffic and aim to realize a society for everyone to live safely and securely.

Parallely, we will realize a safe driving support system to enhance traffic safety by promoting the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), create cities where traffic accidents are unlikely to occur and develop cars and bicycles that can minimize the damage due to accidents. We will promote comprehensive traffic safety measures, such as traffic accident countermeasures, measures to improve the safety of public transportation, such as buses, and measures to prevent traffic jams on expressways.

Based on the ski bus accident that occurred in Karuizawa in the prefecture of Nagano on January 15th, 2016, we will consider measures to prevent the recurrence of disastrous accidents and will promptly implement them.

Securing the safety and security of public transportation is an extremely important task and it is essential for transportation companies to build a comprehensive safety management based and we will promote the improvement and legal implementation of the Transportation Safety Management.

321. Strengthening suicide countermeasures

Although the number of suicide deaths in Japan had decreased by 25.000 for the first time in 18 years last year, it is still a serious problem.

In order to reduce the number of suicides, we will implement countermeasures to realize a society for the early detection of depressions by introducing industrial physicians, specialists and psychologists, introducing stress checks and promoting mental health measures at workplaces. We will consider the utilization of psychiatrists and mental health care workers with the ability to respond to depressions.

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

In addition to countermeasures on depressions, we will assist efforts for health and welfare relations of local governments and private organizations according to the actual circumstances of local communities, based on the Basic Suicide Action Law which was enforced in April this years. We will promote the cooperation of various agents, such as citizens, schools or private organizations, and will thereby enrich school education on the importance of life and proceed with society-based countermeasures.

322. 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. We aim to utilize these to support children and young people and regional revitalization.

Environment

323. Promoting an “aggressive environmental policy” making full use of the world's most advanced technology

We will position storage batteries, fuel cells, next-generation automobiles and smart grids as a national technical development project since the demand for these products is anticipated to increase.

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We will also disseminate energy-saving technologies, which are the strength of Japan. For example, we promote the spread of advanced technologies, such as efficient thermal heat pumps, coal-fired power plants, electric vehicles and storage batteries showing an outstanding energy efficiency and will promote high-level product of the Japanese manufacturing industry, including steel and carbon dioxide storages (CCS), smart grids, highly efficient gallium nitride (GAN) semiconductor, cellular nanofibers and other technologies to contribute to the worldwide reduction of carbon dioxide.

Regarding carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS), we will prepare the preliminary business conduction environment (CCSReady) to advance the early introduction of technological developments, conduct surveys on suitable storages and utilize CCS in the future.

324. Fastest spreading of eco cars and modal shift in the world

By utilizing the automobile green tax system, the purchasing rate of environmentally friendly eco cars will be increased from 50 to 70% of all new car sales by 2030.

In addition, we aim to contribute to global warming countermeasures by realizing the marketing and mass production of electric vehicles, aiming for the Japanese economy to lead the development of such cars and promoting the development of electric, plug-in hybrid and fuel cell cars to realize the world's fastest dissemination of eco cars.

We will promote the distribution of goods via railroads or ships, improve the convenience of public transportation facilities and improve sidewalks and bicycle roads to realize the modal shift (promoting the conversion from automobiles to traffic means with less greenhouse gas emissions).

325. Accelerating the construction of eco-houses

By 2030, we will accelerate the construction of zero-emission buildings and the conversion to eco-houses by increasing the percentage of energy-saving housings to 80% of all newly built houses. We will also promote healthy, comfortable and low-carbon lifestyles.

326. Promoting environmental businesses

In order to manifest excellent environmental technologies and businesses as the driving force of Japan's economic growth, while contributing to global environmental preservation, we will actively promote the raise of “environmental finances” as investment and loans for environmental businesses to support the development of new technologies and realize overseas dissemination. Specifically, we

will utilize a financial mechanism to promote the investment in environmental businesses that contribute to economic growth and regional revitalization, such as renewable energy and energy-saving technologies, and will promote ESG investment (emphasizing and supporting selective investment in companies that consider environmental, social and corporate governance) and will also work on creating new businesses that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, we will proceed with the “visualization” of environmental information for each product and service to realize a market with high-value environmental performance.

Aside from promoting the dissemination of the “carbon offset system” for citizens and business operators to offset their own CO₂ emissions by purchasing credits, we promote new environmental business models to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions throughout our nation by purchasing products and services and will support expenses related to the development and promotion of environment-contributing products as funds for projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

327. Further promoting the “creating of a low-carbon society”

In December last year, the Paris Agreement as a new international framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was adopted by all participating countries. Based on the Paris Agreement, the Global Warming Countermeasures Promotion Headquarters decided on its policy on global warming countermeasures and in May this year, we formulated a global warming countermeasures plan to reduce these emissions by 26% percent in 13 years by 2030 (decreased by 25.4% compared to 2005) as indicated by the Japan’s draft promise (determined on July 17th, 2015 by the Global Warming Countermeasures Promotion Headquarters) and we will steadily work on achieving this goal.

Since the 2°C target has been manifested as a common goal of the world by the Paris Agreement, we aim for realizing the balance between emission and absorption of greenhouse gases during the second half of the century. Based on a fair and effective international framework for every nation to participate, we will take an important role in leading the international community to encourage major emission countries to tackle emission reduction according to their capabilities, while simultaneously achieving global warming countermeasures and economic growth. Japan further aims for an 80% reduction by 2050 as a-term goal to strategically contribute to reduced global emissions.

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Regarding the promotion of low carbonization, we will encourage changes in the living behavior of the economic and civil sector as well as the construction of low-carbon facilities, while taking the impact on the international competitiveness of our national economy and industry into consideration. In addition to offering financial support and taking regulatory measures to promote the emission reduction of all sectors, we will review the whole tax system, including a more comprehensive environmental taxation.

328. Contributing to international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases

To contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, Japan will actively contribute to the establishment of detailed international rules and will proceed with necessary preparations for Japan's signature and conclusion.

In addition, we will promote the spread of superior low-carbon technologies via the bilateral credit system (JCM) to contribute to fundamental global emission reduction.

329. Promoting adaptation measures on global warming

In order to prevent damages due to abnormal weather or disasters, which are increasing with the progress of global warming, we will incorporate adaptation, enhance scientific knowledge, promote the understanding and cooperation by sharing climate risk information and promote regional adaptation based on the "adaptation plan for the impact of climate change". In particular, we will continue to support local public entities' efforts by building a "climate change adaptation information platform", promoting actions to solve adaptation issues and broadly disseminating and raising awareness.

Based on the adaptation initiative advocated by Prime Minister Abe in a speech at the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2014, we will utilize domestic knowledge to support the climate change impact assessment and adaptation plan by international cooperation and contribution. Furthermore, by utilizing the international network supported by Japan, we will contribute to human resource development in the adaptation field by sharing knowledge and providing adaptation funds.

330. Promoting the disclosure of greenhouse gas emission information

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.

331. 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.

332. Promoting a national campaign to create a low-carbon society

We will further contribute to the understanding of future impacts of global warming and will therefore continuously disseminate information on the need for voluntary measures against global warming via various media and people. Furthermore, we will promote "COOLCHOICE" to encourage wise choices on actions, energy-saving and low-carbon products as well as services to contribute to global warming countermeasures and will emphasize the appeal of lifestyle and business style changes by various public events and utilizing the Cool earth Day on July 7th every year. Via these efforts, we will develop a national campaign.

333. Promoting environmental education and human resource development to advance a low-carbon society

Based on the “Law to Promote Environmental Education”, we will promote environmental education on sustainable development (ESD) by utilizing the three key points of this law which are “Human Resource Development”, “Development and Maintenance of Teaching Materials and Programs” and the “Enhancement of the Functions of Collaboration Networks”.

Also, we will cooperate with various entities engaged in ESD activities, establish an ESD Activity Support Center that will share information and experiences with regional areas and support regional ESD activities.

334. Conducting national leadership on the conservation of biodiversity

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 we will contribute to the discussion of COP13 (in Mexico) in December this year and thereby aim to become a developed nation that ensures biodiversity.

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335. 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.

336. Realizing a beautiful country by protecting the biodiversity national parks

In order to position national parks a natural representative of a more attractive Japan, 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, based on the tourism vision compiled at the “Tourism Vision in Japan Conception Conference”, we will develop facilities to enable diverse contact with nature, promote ecotourism, protect hot springs and protect the natural environment by supporting activities of NPOs and nature rangers (nature conservation officers).

In addition, concerning the conservation of the natural ecosystem of national parks, we will promote the rehabilitation of transformed natural ecosystems and implement facilities for various contacts with nature. Furthermore, we will support maintenance projects of national parks implemented by local public entities.

337. 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 due to the use of insecticides. 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.

338. 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. 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.

Concerning alien species, we will continue our efforts to prevent the spread of damages to ecosystems by alien species based on the “Alien Species Damage Prevention Action Plan” and the “Ecological Damage Prevention Action List” formulated in March last year.

339. 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. Furthermore, we will also strengthen our efforts to reduce the killing of dogs and cats by promoting the dissemination of appropriate transfer to local residents and reducing the number of abandoned animals.

340. 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.

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341. 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.

342. 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 and the Monitoring Site 1000 monitors nationwide ecosystems for 100 years. 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. In addition to trying to expand these projects, we will proceed with the publication of ecosystem maps by utilizing information communication technology (ICT).

343. 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.

344. 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.

345. Promoting the recycling of waste

We will nurture and encourage second-hand markets and revitalize our industry while paying attention that excessive recycling will not damage the original purpose of "reducing the environmental burden".

Furthermore, regarding the waste disposal industry, we will emphasize not only the conversion to waste disposal businesses but also the treatment of waste as a precious resource by establishing a certification system for well-performing industrial waste disposal companies. Thereby, we will promote the dissemination of good practices, cultivate good reusing businesses, establish the green procurement by the government and actively implement environmentally friendly contracts.

346. 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 and citizens.

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.

347. 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.

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348. 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".

349. 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.

350. 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 eliminating domestic gas emission.

351. 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.

352. Conserving the rich environment of inland seas and the coastal environment

Based on the "Inland Sea Special Measures Law" revised by the legislative council, we will regenerate and create water quality conservation management, promote the preservation of natural landscapes and secure the sustainable use of fishery resources.

Educational revitalization

353. Enhancing direct investment to realize the world's top human 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 our rich history, tradition and culture” and a “national citizens thinking, judging and motivating themselves”. Therefore, based on the recommendations of the Education Revival Execution Committee, we will steadily implement the Second Phase Education Promotion Basic Plan and the new “course of study”, both formulated in accordance with the Basic Education Law, to progress education revitalization. While examining the progress of the Second Phase Education Promotion Basic Plan, which is bound to terminate in FY2017, we will summarize the broad opinions of citizens and formulate a recommendation to the government for establishing the Third Phase Plan.

By 2020, we aim to realize a “society for all motivated children, young people and the whole society to learn regardless of the economic situation of the family and to receive high-quality education”. Also, the solving of the declining birthrate and the “reproduction of inequality” is an urgent issue for Japan. To solve these problems, we will accumulate educational investment by securing public finances, private funds and other financial resources to realize a public education expenditure comparable to other OECD nations and will position educational investment as “investment in the future”.

354. 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) to provide high-quality education to everyone.

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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.

355. Nurturing global human resources contributing to our growth strategy

In order to nurture global human resources who can play an active role in the world, we will promote the cultivation of Japanese identities via the education on Japanese traditions, history and culture as well as high motivation. By fostering self-reliant humans, we will emphasize their attachment to Japanese values and enable them to cooperate with others and to acquire the ability to communicate in English, since this is the common international language, and will thereby further develop our nation. We will also enrich our English language education by implementing this subject to the early

curriculum of elementary schools, establishing classes taught in English at junior high schools and implementing English presentations, discussions and negotiations at high schools. In addition to improving the quality of teachers, we will also enhance the placement and guidance system of teachers to ensure appropriate English education by conducting nationwide academic English examinations at junior and high schools and utilizing external human resources, whose mother tongue is English, as foreign language teaching assistants (ALT).

In order to nurture global human resources from high school level onwards, we will enrich Super Global High Schools and support high schools by conducting internationally sophisticated education and support students who wish to study abroad. We will enrich the education on geographical history and traditional culture by establishing “geographical comprehension” and “historical comprehension” as a common subject at high schools.

Regarding mathematics education, we will respect children’s diversity and cultivate creativity and will enhance our talent education to extend our qualities and to develop children with clear purposes and consciousness who will become the future leaders of the world. 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 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.

In order to enable the acquisition of qualifications for international university entrance examinations, we will utilize the international baccalaureate to nurture global human resources and will increase the number of international baccalaureate accredited schools to about 200 in 2018 by developing and introducing a curriculum program (Japanese DP) and utilizing university entrance examinations. In addition, we will continuously support “super global universities” by enforcing a university reform and internationalization, including the expansion of classes taught in English and actively recruiting young people who obtained degrees in foreign countries.

Furthermore, regarding higher education, we support efforts that emphasize scientific abilities, such as logical thinking and expressive power in writing, as necessary academic abilities for the admission at university and to train personnel in the fields of science and engineering.

In order to promote active learning according to individuality, and while promoting information education, we will advance the utilization of ICT at schools and improve the ICT environment. By doing so, we will take necessary measures to promote the use of ICT at all schools to take maximum care to prevent the widening of the educational gap. We will also promote the introduction of a school support system to secure time for teachers to devote themselves to children.

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356. **Strengthening the function of Japanese schools to nurture global human resources**

Children living overseas play an important role for future global talents. In order to ensure that these children can learn with confidence, we will expand the dispatching of teachers to Japanese schools and work on improving the quality of teachers. Regarding these Japanese schools, we will promote the sophistication of educational standards by implementing advanced programs as the foundation for developing global human resources.

357. **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.

To ensure equal opportunities for compulsory education and to improve its quality, we will conduct annual nationwide academic achievement and learning situation surveys and utilize these to improve the school guidance for all children. We will regularly conduct surveys to continuously investigate academic achievement and will promote further efforts to enable children to acquire reliable academic abilities. The results of the international academic achievement survey shows that Japanese children's academic ability is at the top level. However, there is also the problem in terms of applied power and it is also necessary to improve the curriculum and methods while considering the development of advanced learning in connecting with the society. It is the mission of the public education to maximize the capabilities of all children and to enable them to acquire the abilities necessary for their future. In addition, in order to realize the social participation and independence of the increasing number of disabled children, children with economic difficulties, children who need guidance on the Japanese language and children in need of special support, we will provide detailed education to maximize the abilities of diverse children according to the circumstances of each child, in order to realize a true "symbiotic society" and a "society with 100 million active citizens". Therefore, we will preserve the quality of education by implementing school education and course of study standards and will enrich the guidance environment, for example for disabled children, to cultivate the abilities of each child.

In order to prevent the occurrence of education gaps due to the economic situation of families, we will work on reducing the educational financial burden. In addition, to prevent disparities in educational conditions due to the financial strength of local governments, we will consider using the national treasure to cover the full amount of compulsory education expenses.

358. 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 of our nation by biased history education.

By promoting volunteer activities and internships at middle and high schools, we will actively nurture public minds and sociality. 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 for households with difficult circumstances by protecting and deepening regional ties, such as traditional sport clubs and circle activities (traditional culture and parents' classes, parent-child classes, nature experience activities, etc.).

359. Promoting education that cultivates the awareness of norms and establishing the new subject "moral"

Regarding moral education to learn normative consciousness and social rules and manners necessary for person to live as a citizen, we will enrich educational activities in cooperation with families and local communities and will further improve teaching methods by introducing a special subject on morality and introducing new textbooks. Also, we will set up the subject "moral" at senior high schools which will develop the abilities needed for social participation and the life as a citizen. In addition, we will promote the deployment of multiple newspapers at elementary, junior high and high schools to promote sovereign education.

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360. 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 Food Education".

In addition, we will try to inherit Japanese food which is registered and protected as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. In order to disseminate "Japanese food" correctly to the world, we will strategically use machines and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo as promotion platform. Furthermore, in order to reduce food loss in various forms, we will continue efforts to raise the awareness of consumers, develop a citizen movement to reduce food squandering and will improve the food supply processing from food production to consumption.

361. Promoting legal education

We will promote legal education to enable children, who will be the future leaders of our society, to positively state their opinions under fair and free rules and to acquire abilities necessary for their future by actively using the law.

362. Financial support for applicants for legal professions

We will enhance and strengthen the financial support for law schools and judicial training to develop young legal talents as legal professionals and to realize a powerful justice system.

363. New education reform responding to a turbulent era

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.

We will promote the diversification and double-tracking of institutions by actively promoting interdisciplinary institutions from this fiscal year onwards in according with local circumstances and improving the environment for education outside of schools, such as free schools, international schools or night junior high schools. Also, we will promote the establishment of free elementary school system, introduce a graduation system to enable early graduation from elementary to high schools according to personal aim, ability and aptitude and enable a diversified learning guarantee system. Furthermore, in order to enable double-tracking at secondary education level, and to enable young people to acquire their dreams and intentions, we will support the acquisition of practical vocational skills and respond to changes in the industrial structure by promoting five-year courses of special high schools and consistent vocational education based on the cooperation of special high schools and vocational schools while also strengthening our support for super professional high schools.

Even after people have already entered our society, we will promote the development of an easy-to-learn environment by establishing flexible certification programs, enabling relearning for skill upgrading, financially supporting career changes of motivated learners and child rearing parents and strengthening the re-education functions of universities by providing loans. In addition to expanding the scope of designated specialized practical education and training, we will provide vocational practice courses and vocational practice skill training programs (BP) based on the needs of the society, citizens and companies. We will establish these educational programs at universities, graduate schools and vocational schools by offering support and introducing a social system that enables re-learning and promoting opportunities for the security of new challenges in accordance with the changes in the industrial structure. Especially for women, we will enrich the career formation assistance in collaboration with local communities and educational institutions to provide women's learning programs as well as reemployment support and to improve the childcare environment at universities and other institutions. Regarding elderly people, we will collaborate with related regional organizations and promote reemployment by creating a mechanism that links community activities and the employment as entrepreneurs.

364. Preparing textbooks that are truly conform with the Basic Education Law and the Course of Study

Even after the amendment of the Basic Education Law and the revision of teaching guidelines, there are still textbooks with biased descriptions, such as self-deflecting historical descriptions, and the Abe administration therefore revised the textbook verification criteria.

In order to properly reflect the government's stance, we carried out a fundamental reform so that children do not misunderstand certain aspects by only learning specific theories and we also

improved the whole descriptions and substantial content. Also, the commentary on teaching guidelines has been revised and the content on territory education has been significantly increased. Also, in accordance with the revised teaching guidelines, we will consider further examinations of teaching standards.

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In addition, we revised the Textbook Grant Aid Measures System and thereby established the textbook adoption system and oblige each educational committee attached to national universities and public or private school to publicly adopt the results and objectives. We also oblige high schools and high-level vocational schools to publicly announce the adoption of the new textbooks. By adopting these textbooks, and in order to prevent doubts of citizens, we encourage educators, educational committees and school officials to fairly and appropriately adopt these texts by securing their authority and responsibility.

365. Overcoming educational disparities

In order to break the circle of poverty and to realize a “society with 100 million active citizens” and local creation, it is an urgent task to overcome educational disparities and to improve the skills of each person. Therefore, we will support children who have difficulties in acquiring academic abilities, including bullying or drop-outs, and will guarantee basic academic skill acquisition for all children at school. In addition, we will train family education support personnel who work closely with families with difficulties, provide places for parent consultations, enrich the principle of free learning support and will promote the acquisition of educational skills not only at schools but also at home and in communities by implementing parent-child learning, such as reading and nature experiential activities.

In order to effectively realize these efforts, we have established comprehensive one-stop support for poor families, including educational support by the national government, municipalities and cities to establish and disseminate model-like efforts to overcome education gaps. We will also publish evidence that overcoming disparities leads to various social benefits, and will therefore secure educational resources and consider the introduction of a new system that utilizes various funds, including private funds.

366. 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 financial burden of educational expenses to realize a society for all children to have equal chances. Early childhood education, pre-school education and the attendance of elementary schools will be free of charges. 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. Regarding compulsory education and the important role of private schools alongside national public schools, we will establish a public support system to reduce the financial burden of tuition fees for

private junior high school students and will enable each student to select schools according to motivation and ability by public and private funds, without being influenced by the economic situation of families.

Concerning higher education levels, we will accelerate the establishment of standard tuition fees at national universities in 2016, enrich the tuition fee exemptions of national public and private universities and increase the provision of “interest-free” scholarship programs. We will introduce a “reimbursement scholarship system” linked with the monthly income after graduation and will try to establish a new benefits scholarship system and secure the necessary financial resources. Furthermore, we will improve the learning environment by providing financial support for students having difficulties to finance studying, such as tuition reduction and exemption measures at vocational schools, fellowships for doctoral students, teacher assistants and research assistants, and will thereby greatly relief students.

367. Realizing teaching that responds the diversity of personalities

Education that responds to diverse individualities and maximizes the power of each person is the cornerstone of a “society with 100 million active citizens”. We will realize detailed education according to individual personalities to realize a society for all children to develop their skills and become active citizens. We will mitigate parents’ anxiety by deepening the understanding of each person’s individuality and monitor children warmly. We will strengthen the school guidance system by tailoring it to each student’s learning situation, teaching children on proficiency level by promoting tailored instructions, developing supplementary learning, including after-school and Saturday classes, and expanding sites for learning support, such as “regional future cramming schools”.

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Also, we will enrich the diversity of learning opportunities in each school, local public educational facilities and universities so that the superior skills and strengths of children can be fostered.

We will also enhance education support centers and promote the establishment of night junior high schools while also promoting the use of ICT to develop hidden skills and improve the organization of special education curricula at schools.

We will strengthen efforts to improve the educational system in communities and expand the high school admission and career education support to enable the skill development of children who need guidance in Japanese, including foreigners.

368. Collaboration of communities and schools to realize education throughout the society

We will further promote the cooperation of schools, families and communities as stipulated in the Basic Education Law as an important step to support children by the whole society and will reform the system of activities to raise children via regional schools and communities, such as learning and experiential activities after schools by the cooperation of local residents, home study education support and parent-child reading activities utilizing libraries. In addition, by enhancing the arrangement of regional coordinators responsible for the coordination of the network of local

residents and schools, we will position them as regional school collaboration headquarters as the basis of regional school collaborative activities. Therefore, we will create a assistance system that takes advantage of retirees with abundant knowledge and experience as well as external human resources from companies and organizations with social experiences, to enable learning in after-school activities or on Saturdays and ensure comprehensive learning time for morals. Especially, concerning the economic circumstances of families, we will actively promote efforts for free education for children having difficulties to learn (regional future cramming schools).

Furthermore, in order to share our goals and visions with communities and transform local communities to a “school of local communities” to foster children, we aim to organize community schooling for all public schools and continuously reform the collaboration system of schools and regional areas while also strongly supporting efforts by municipalities and schools.

Furthermore, to support community schools and to revitalize communities, it is necessary to develop an environment for elderly people and local residents to easily participate in volunteer and community activities. Therefore, we will enrich the environment for all generations to play an active role in local communities, by creating places for learning and actively including local residents and elderly people to practices.

369. 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 if the act is classified as crime. We will also provide coordinating guidance and financial support for local government working on bullying measures. In addition to examining whether comprehensive bullying measures have been implemented nationwide based on the “Bullying Prevention Measures Promotion Law”, we will thoroughly discuss the effectiveness of the law and will effort to promote systematic bullying countermeasures in cooperation with local governments and schools.

370. Preventing school refusal and dropouts to offer a bright future for young people

Since the number of NEET and freeter, who suffer under enrollment and employment difficulties, increases due to school refusal, we will prevent dropouts by providing the option of reentering schools and learning assistance.

In order to prevent dropouts, it is important for teachers and professional staff to collaborate on student guidance based on the idea of “team education”. In addition to expanding the number of full-time teachers and student support staff, we will utilize school counselors as psychological experts and school social workers as experts on welfare and will thereby enhance the educational consultation function of schools.

Specifically, we will arrange school social workers in all junior high schools (approximately 10.000) and school counselors at all public elementary, junior and high schools (approximately 27.500) as well as counselors at public secondary high schools (approximately 30.000) by the end of 2019.

In addition, to support children who fail to go to school, we will strengthen the functions and promote the placement of school counselors at Education Support Centers (adaptation guidance classes), and will organize a special education curriculum that take dropouts into consideration. We will also support children learning outside of schools, promote the establishment of night junior high schools and actively support candidates who wish to re-attend schools by taking measures in cooperation with education support centers to offer special support for dropouts to re-attend schools.

371. 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.

372. Securing political neutrality of education

The Public Election Law was revised in June last year and the voting age was lowered to 18 years and older. There are now unprecedented circumstances for high school education since third grad high school students will be voters in the next upper house election. It was a political decision to lower the voting age to “18 years and older”. But educational facilities and schools should not be confused by this political decision. Therefore, in July last year, the Science Subcommittee of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology compiled “recommendations for the prevention of confusion in educational facilities due to the reduction of the voting age”. Based on these recommendations, we will impose penalties on political acts of educational public officials so that political neutrality is firmly secured and political ideology is not permeated in school education. By amending the Civil Servant Law and expanding the scope of applicable laws, we will revise the Temporary Measures Law on Securing Political Neutrality at Educational Facilities Including Compulsory Education Schools and High Schools”.

373. Improving the skills of teachers

The success or failure of school education depends on the competence of teachers. Based on the skills and abilities that the future generation should acquire, we aim to further improve the skills of teachers.

Therefore, as a measure to support the learning of students, we aim to nurture in-service teachers by conducting consistent training and recruitment in consideration with the national government’s guidelines for the training of teachers. In addition to improving the nationwide formulation of teacher training indexes, we will advance the nationwide teacher training council to enable the cooperation

of educational committees and universities on the development of teachers. We will also review the teacher courses at universities. Furthermore, in order to secure the nationwide improvement of teachers' skills, the National Institute for Educational Training has been positioned as a nationwide hub for improving teacher skills and has been reorganized into an organization that comprehensively supports the improved quality of faculties and staff. In order to ensure training opportunities for teachers at schools and revitalize in-school training, we aim to enhance the staff system by securing an accurate number of faculties and staff, including career changers as alternative teachers.

Also, we will introduce a recruitment and selection system that strictly evaluates aptitude via practical training and we will therefore adopt training at school sites, such as the "teacher internship program". Aside from promoting aptitude by utilizing evaluations at teaching postgraduate schools, we will develop an employment-oriented recruitment system and each Board of Education will promote the nationwide establishment of "teacher cram schools" which will be responsible for the training of teachers. Furthermore, to secure diverse human resources, we aim to double the appointment of civilians as teachers (about 10% of all hired teachers).

374. Realizing team schools

Due to the complexity of our society, the educational needs of citizens are diversifying and advancing. In order to enable schools to respond to these needs, schools themselves have to transform into diversified and sophisticated schools. Therefore, the fourth recommendations of our party's Educational Revival Execution Headquarters proposed "team schools" last year. Based on the philosophy of this proposal, we will realize "team schools" under the proper management of principals as the leader of schools and will enable diverse human resources to participate in schooling and to demonstrate their expertise and conduct educational activities besides teachers.

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To realize and strongly promote these efforts, we will establish the Team School Promotion Act (provisional name).

By realizing "team schools", teachers as the core of school education become more important than ever. Therefore, we will take comprehensive measures to secure excellent talents. Also, in order to raise the educational capabilities of schools, we will create an environment for teachers and specialized staff to collaborate and share educational activities as teams. In particular, by routinely establishing school counselors as psychological experts and school social workers as welfare specialists at every school, we will enhance our responses to certain problems, such as bullying and poverty. In addition, we will further improve the work environment at schools and reduce the workload of teachers to create an environment for teachers to devote themselves to educational activities.

In order to further enhance the education of children, it is important for regional education facilities to become a lively group of schools by establishing team schools and regional talents. Therefore, we will accelerate the implementation of community schools and enhance the cooperation of schools and community by creating a system to promote learning and experiencing activities with local residents, such as after-school activities or classes on Saturdays.

Principals still play a vital and effective leadership role in “team schools”. Concerning teaching postgraduate schools, we will promote managerial training for head teachers and supervising teachers. Also, in order for principals to fully demonstrate leadership, it is essential to enrich the assistance system for principals. Therefore, in order to dramatically increase the number of head teachers and arrange them at all schools, we will review the duties of administrative staff and promote proper placement to dramatically strengthen the management planning function of schools.

375. Constructing a safe and secure school environment

School facilities do not only play an important role in children’s education, but also as shelters (evacuation shelter function) in the event of disasters, as a base for the local community, including elderly and disabled people, to meet and as the foundation to form the society, the creation in rural areas and the strengthening of our nation.

However, since many school facilities have aged and there are many other problems, such as defects in their safety functions. We will realize safe and secure school facilities by tackling urgent issues, such as the maintenance of aging facilities, improving air conditioning and improving the barrier free access to toilets. Also, in order to implement aging countermeasures, we will promote the longevity of facilities by renovation and long-term use. In addition, we will intensively support the early completion of earthquake resistant private school facilities, which are lagging behind public facilities.

Aside from securing children’s lives and physical safety in the case of disasters, we will accelerate aging measures and earthquake resistance of school facilities, including ceilings, and public gyms that play an important role as evacuation centers during disasters and large-scale earthquakes. Furthermore, since school facilities act as evacuation centers, we will establish communication systems to enable facilities to communicate independently, install power generators, establish water supply tanks, encourage stockpiling and install bathing facilities at schools to proceed with the maintenance of disaster prevention facilities. Additionally, we will endeavor to strengthen our support since local governments are facing financial difficulties.

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we will guarantee the safety of children by keeping them at school if parents are unable to return home and will develop a disaster response system for parents and children based on the cooperation of the public and private sector. To adapt the daily routine in anticipation of disasters, such as earthquakes, typhoons and fires, we will enrich “disaster education” tailored to local circumstances in order to mitigate disaster damage. In addition, we will maintain a school environment for all children to go to school with confidence by ensuring the safety of school paths. Furthermore, it is essential for instructors and principals to examine crisis management manuals of schools in line with the civil protection plan and baes on the Civil Protection Law and will encourage them to include armed attacks, terrorist attacks and ballistic missile launches and will encourage them to participate in drills conducted by local governments.

376. Improving the quality of early childhood education free of charge

As stipulated in the Basic Education Law, early childhood education plays an important role in forming personalities and we will therefore guarantee high-quality early childhood education for all children.

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Therefore, we will enrich the content of early childhood education to realize a smooth connection to elementary school education based on the characteristics and development of infants and will improve the treatment and qualification of kindergarten teachers and nursery teachers. We will also improve the quality of early childhood education by enhancing the promotion of infant education groups.

Parallely, to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive early childhood education regardless of the financial situation of families, we will secure financial resources to provide early childhood education free of charge.

In order to improve the quality of childhood education free of charge, we will establish the Early Childhood Education Promotion Act (provisional name).

377. Strengthening the support system for home tutoring

Family education is the starting point for all further education and the Basic Education Law stipulates that parents have the primary responsibility for children's education and the national and local governments are responsible for families. While respecting the autonomy of education, we concretized what we should do to support home education. In addition to enriching learning opportunities to support the growth of parents and children, we will utilize the skills of local human resources and cooperate with schools to eliminate concerns and anxieties of parents regarding family education while also establishing Family Education Support Teams in all municipalities to strengthen the support system for home education. Moreover, in order to comprehensively promote measures on home education support, we will establish the Home Education Support Bill (provisional name).

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.

378. 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. In particular, it is necessary to emphasize training of reading abilities, the use of knowledge and skills, judgement and expressive power. Therefore, we will improve linguistic classes into "lessons to nurture children's language abilities" and we will create new courses to train the comprehension of subjects, to cultivate the ability for living in real life, to nurture the formulate diversified sentences in conservations, to formulate their own creative ideas and to express themselves logically.

379. Enabling foreigners to play an active role in the Japanese society

In order to help foreigner who live in Japan to integrate into our society and enable them to play an active role, it is necessary to guarantee the education of Japanese language abilities and academic abilities of foreign children at public schools. We will establish a detailed admission system for school entrance according to the Japanese proficiency level and arrange the guidance provision of teachers and instructors.

380. Japanese education enabling friendship with foreigners

Since Japan has entered an era of declining population, the activities of foreigners living in Japan will give vitality to our nation. Therefore, foreigners need to master Japanese, but the system of Japanese education for foreign adults is not fully 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 the enactment of the Japanese Language Education Promotion Law and enriching the Japanese language education for foreigner as a lifestyle project, we will develop an environment for nurturing true friendships with foreigner. We will also work on the overseas dissemination of the Japanese language.

381. Extending special support education to take care of each individual

Based on the philosophy of an “inclusive education system”, we will ensure the independence and social participation of all disabled children, including developmental disabilities, and will develop a system that provide consistent support.

In order to enhance the educational system according to the educational needs of each person, we will enrich the necessary education for disabled children by creating a mechanism to provide consistent development support and consultation from infancy until school graduation based on the “individual educational support plan” and the “individual guidance plan” for students who are subject to special support classes.

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To improve the teaching, we will encourage the full dedication of special support education coordinators and promote the establishment of special support education staff and improve the nursing of children in need of medical care and will enhance the research and contents of teaching materials by utilizing technology, such as ICT. In addition, we will increase the acquisition rate of special support education teacher licenses and will enable all elementary, middle and high school teachers to acquire knowledge and skills on special support education.

Furthermore, in order to realize the independence and social participation of all children, it is vital to implement high school and university entrance exams that give consideration to disabled students, to enhance career education and employment support according to individual characteristics and abilities and to expand the arrangement of employment support coordinators. We strive to institutionalize the guidance of graduates and develop a system to implement and institutionalize special support classes while also enhancing continuous learning opportunities to maintain and improve the abilities of graduates.

382. Education with diverse options without swamping

In order to respond to the need of the society for educational personnel training with diverse options but without swamping, 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. Regarding special high schools, we will promote practical vocational education in accordance with changes in our society and trends in the industrial sector by enhancing the cooperation of companies, universities and colleges on the project of “super professional high schools” to train specialized professionals with sophisticated knowledge and skills and who can play an active role in our society. In particular, concerning agriculture, forestry and fishery high schools, we will strengthen the education on agricultural management in cooperation with related industries. Also, in response to diversifying needs of students, we will provide companies’ support at high-level vocational schools (vocational high schools) to realize the combination of theoretical and practical education during the same period.

Aside from strengthening the industry-academia cooperation in higher education, we will improve the quality of practical vocational education which responds to local human resources needs by promoting systematic cooperation of regional companies and vocational schools. We aim to eliminate the institutional disparity to other schools by fully recognizing the significance of existing vocational schools as well as various other schools, providing financial support and supporting the enhancement of educational content.

Based on a broader cooperation with universities, vocational schools, industries and communities, we will improve the training of highly professionalized human resources. By establishing local community colleges, we will support skill acquisition and employment. As places to provide opportunities to refine and upgrade individual abilities to respond to a turbulent era, we aim to institutionalize new higher education institutions, as a new fusion of school and vocational education, to nurture highly “professionalized excellent human resources” who will play an active role in the future.

383. Promoting career education and vocational education to realize self-reliant and independent young people

We will promote career education and vocational 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 and promoting experiential learning activities, especially concerning NEET. We will enhance the experiential learning activities at schools. Regarding universities, we will promote the establishment of internships as part of the curriculum, the improvement of teaching methods and the development of teaching 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 enacting the Career Education Promotion Act, we will realize a system to promote career education and vocational education throughout Japan.

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384. 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), including the seniority system, and strategically enhance the facility management by providing subsidies for the operational expenses for facility maintenance. We will strengthen the functions of universities, including education, research and social contribution, by offering intensive and focused support.

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.

Private universities account for about 80% of all universities, and they play a major role in the educational system of our nation. Since the environment of private universities, such as the declining birthrate, is becoming increasingly severe, we will conduct a comprehensive review to provide strategic fiscal support and enhance the governance of private universities to guarantee a sound development of private universities and fortify the trust of our society in these institutions. 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 and by encouraging commissioned and collaborative research.

We will actively support regional co-creation (collaboration between universities, regional/local society and industries) not only among universities, but also promote the dissemination of information to Japan and other countries about diverse activities of universities. Furthermore, in order to secure students' learning time and studying abroad, we will ensure diverse opportunities at universities and will establish an appropriate job hunting time to foster personnel that responds to social demand. In addition, we will focus on supporting technical colleges by promoting reforms, such as the enhancement of practical and creative engineer education based on the needs of local and global industries, and the support of technicians who are active in the global field.

385. Promoting high-level education reforms to enable the learning of abilities necessary for the current new era

Since enormous social fluctuations occur both in Japan and abroad, education that cultivates the surely acquisition of academic and value-added abilities is essential. In order to respond to these changes, we will fundamentally and integrally reform high school education, university education and university admission selection to provide flexible and agile perspectives according to the current era and surely foster three elements of academic achievements.

Concerning the high school education reform, (1) it is necessary to review the educational curriculum to nurture the qualities and abilities required for the future era (high school curriculum guidelines revision), (2) to enhance learning and teaching methods, including the establishment of so-called active learning, subjective learning and collaborative learning emphasizing the ability to identify and solve issues, (3) to introduce "high school basic academic ability tests" (provisional name) as a toll to measure diverse learning outcomes and as a multifaceted evaluation of a wide range of qualifications and abilities via daily activities of students.

By realizing these efforts, we will secure and improve the quality of high school education.

Concerning the university education reform, and based on the educational philosophy of each university, (1) we will implement the “graduation certification degree award policy” to award and certify the abilities acquired by students at the time of graduation, (2) implement the “educational curriculum formation and implementation policy” to realize the graduation certification and degree awards policy, (3) implement the “admission and acceptance policy” on the process of enrollees selection and admission. Based on these policies, we will promote the realization of a comprehensive university education while ensuring the consistent and clear definition of the objectives of these three policies.

Concerning the university entrance selection reform, we will improve the individual selection method of each university by clarifying the policy on admissions and manifesting these objectives in the selection methods to include the three elements of academic abilities in a multifaceted and comprehensive manner. In addition, we will introduce “university entrance candidate academic abilities evaluation tests” (provisional name) to transform the common university entrance examination tests into an evaluation of thinking ability, judgement ability, expressive power and the solving of descriptive formula problems.

Thereby, we will cultivate people who embody the three elements of academic abilities, which are thinking ability, judgment ability and expressive power, as well as who embody the attitude to cooperate with diverse skilled people, subjectivity, leadership, planning ability, creativity, sensibility, kindness and compassion. Furthermore, we will provide the necessary financial support to establish a system to promote these reforms.

386. Higher education reform to realize our growth strategy

In order to respond to the intensified global competition and the progress of the population decline as well as to maintain the vitality of the Japanese economy and society, it is crucial to enhance innovation and creativity and to improve labor productivity. Therefore, we will support professional graduate schools aiming to train advanced professional personnel as a base for our growth strategy and aiming to cultivate personnel further contributing to the improvement of the productivity of the service industry. Especially regarding business schools, we aim to promote the characteristics of each school, such as global top schools, community-based schools or specialized industrial schools, and aim to dramatically improve the quality of our products by introducing evaluations that incorporate the perspective of stakeholders.

In addition, we will promote human resource development responding to the needs of our society in an era of rapid changes by institutionalizing high-quality professional training at new higher education institutions that conduct practical vocational education in cooperation with the industrial sector.

Furthermore, by promoting practical and professional programs (vocational ability and skill development programs (BP) at universities based on the needs of the civil and economic sector, we will promote career upgrading and social learning.

387. **Enhancing education and research at higher education institutions**

To promote educational institutions that respond to changes in the current era, we will realize human resource development suitable for positioning Japan as a technological nation by further providing financial support for technical colleges that cultivate highly professional practical engineers who will be active both domestically and internationally. At the same time, by collaborating with local industries, we will revitalize the potential of regions, expand local employment and enhance local creation.

388. **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. 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.

389. **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.

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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 and we therefore secured the same amount of expenses grants and private scholarship grants in the budget of FY2016 as in the previous fiscal year.

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, in order to accurately support efforts to strengthen the functions of each university, we will promote “human resource development and research responding to the needs of communities”, “the formation of excellent research bases and networks for each subject” and “outstanding education and research at the world’s top universities”. We will establish a framework on priority support for national university administrative expenses grants, conduct financial distribution based on evaluations and implement management reforms. Aside from supporting the discretionary expenses of university presidents, we will promote reforms to contribute to the success of young talented personnel, to contribute to the advancement of the

extent of academic research and innovation and will realize self-transforming national universities offering new prospects for the social and economic sector.

Regarding private subsidies, we strive for strategic and detailed allocation as incentive for universities.

390. 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 and improve the academic environment 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” (provisional name), 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 aid on the widespread arrangement of faculties and staff as well as on creating a research environment and financial support for excellent independent graduate students.

391. Promoting the activities 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.

392. 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 to build bridges between Japan and other nations and to acquire human resources playing an active role in Japanese companies and contributing to the growth of our nation.

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.

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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. 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.

393. 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. Based on the establishment of the Sports Agency last year, related ministries and agencies will be united and work not only on improving our international competitiveness, but also on promoting health via sports, sport for disabled people and the revitalization of regional economies while also contributing to the international community.

To enable Japanese athletes to play an active role in international competitions such as the Olympic Games in Rio this year and in other competitions, we will enrich the financial support for competitors, “players” and athletes and will especially support female athletes. In addition to promoting policies to improve international competitiveness, including the utilization of sport medicine and improving national training centers, we will double the officials at international federations of each sports organization to enhance our international presence. Also, we will do our utmost to succeed at the 2017 Winter Olympics in Sapporo, the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang and the 2019 Rugby World Cup and promote anti-doping measure to ensure the soundness of sport competitions. In addition, we will try to hold more international competitions.

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 habits 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, we will strengthen group governance, support sports leader and dual careers of athletes by enhancing the human resource development base of sports organization. We also consider developing an environment enabling the easy use of school grounds and gyms by everyone, including women, elderly people and disabled people.

394. Realizing successful and legendary Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020

Based on the “Olympic Basic Policy”, we will cooperate with the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo Promotion Headquarters on promoting comprehensive and intensive measures for a smooth preparation and management of this competition and we will continue to worldwide disseminate that we already achieved the recovery and reconstruction of disaster areas before the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. We will promote international exchange via sports by implementing Olympic and Paralympic Games education and cultural programs (Beyond2020 program) and will promote sports volunteers and training camps to let the 2020 Tokyo Games be a festival throughout the nation and not be concentrated only on Tokyo.

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We will therefore also disseminate the Olympic and Paralympic Movement nationwide to promote town development based on a universal and barrier free design. 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.

Aside from constructing new national stadiums, 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. In addition, we will showcase Japan’s excellent technologies, such as environmental or energy technologies or robot technologies, to construct a hydrogen society and spread these technologies worldwide.

395. Realizing the development of the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry triggered by the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games 2020

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be an opportunity to develop Japan’s agriculture, forestry and fishery industry. We will promote agricultural production process

management (GAP) to respond to domestic and overseas demands and will also increase exports. We will also actively utilize domestic timber for the maintenance of related tournament facilities.

396. Promoting a “barrier free mind” for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020

We will realize a symbiotic society by promoting a “barrier free mind” for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

397. Promoting a sport industry

In anticipation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games, we launched business committees and subcommittees since the economic revitalization via sports is expected and we thereby started a discussion on the activation of a sports industry. In order to encourage the transformation from “physical education” to professional “sports”, we will create an autonomous virtuous cycle of reinvestment in the sports industry and promote the industrialization of sports by introducing private know-how and investments after 2020.

Specifically, we will fundamentally review the existing stadium and arena setup and promote their transformation from a cost center to a profit center. Also, in order to maximize the attractiveness of amateur sports, we strive to strengthen the management of content holders (sports groups, university sports, etc.) and will nurture sport management human resources. In addition, we will actively introduce the latest sports technology, expand health businesses, advance and diversify video game distribution services and create a new sport market.

With the growing interest in sports, and by hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the public becomes more familiar with sport and we will therefore take efforts to deepen our sports culture, the industrialization of our nation’s sports as well as health promotion and will thereby contribute to the realization of the 600 trillion Yen GDP.

398. Creating a “cultural and artistic nation” the world should be proud of

Based on the “Basic Policy on Promoting Cultural Arts”, we will support the inheritance of artistic activities and tradition culture. We will take measures to develop and preserve cultural assets, renovation national cultural facilities and actively foster human resources, such as young artists. In doing so, by making full use of our diverse cultural and artistic resources and strengthening their domestic and overseas dissemination, we will increase the number of tourists and with further promote the growth of related industries and areas and will thereby expand the Japanese cultural economy (expanding the GDP via culture).

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By positioning the 2020 Tokyo Games not only as a sport but also as a cultural festival, we will establish cultural programs all over our nation, create opportunities to attract worldwide tourists with our cultural resources and introduce cultural programs throughout Japan. We will also establish a portal site to disseminate information on the appeal of our cultural arts in various languages both inside and outside of Japan. We will activate theaters and music halls to promote performing arts and will support planned cultural projects by local governments and will revitalize communities via cultural arts. In order to strategically disseminate Japanese culture worldwide, we will continue to

pursue the succession and development of traditional culture and arts while also promoting media arts as new Japanese brands, such as animation, and will therefore develop related human resources and improve the treatment of producers. We will furthermore prioritize cultural exchange partners and contents, promote the international exchange of excellent arts and expand overseas bases for Japanese language education.

We will support “culture and art creating cities” which promote the creativity of cultural arts and their dissemination throughout our nation while also contributing to the revitalization of regional industries. In addition, by recognizing that cultural art experience will contribute to 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”.

399. 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 organizations and advance motivated cultural and artistic activities. We will also provide 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. Thereby, we will secure cultural assets for our wealth and beautify them to use cultural assets as touristic resources. We will promote video recording (digital data) in order to securely inherit valuable folk cultural properties to future generations.

Since “Japanese heritages” describe the culture and tradition of our nation via the historical charm and characteristics of each region, we will approve about 100 cases as Japanese heritage by 2020. We will also support further efforts, such as the dissemination of related information, and will promote the public use of precious local cultural assets while also promoting cultural property as the foundation for regional revitalization.

400. Preserving and utilizing world heritages and intangible cultural heritages

Last July, “Japan’s Meiji Revolution Heritage Iron, Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Industry” was registered as UNESCO World Heritage. We currently have 15 cultural heritages and 4 natural heritage sites. Also, regarding intangible cultural heritages which are rooted in traditional regional

areas and symbolize the diversity of our culture and customs, *nogaku*, *ningyo joruri*, *bunraku*, *kabuki*, Japanese traditional food culture and Japanese handicraft paper technology along with 22 further cases are registered as intangible cultural heritages. 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.

401. Enriching marine education suitable for an ocean ruling nation

Japan is completely surrounded by the sea, has the world’s sixth largest exclusive economic zone and is bases on trade with foreign western nations.

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We enacted the Basic Maritime Law and promote various marine policies based on the Basic Marine Plan. Among these, we will train marine talent who will be responsible for the future of our ocean ruling nation and enhance the education on marine issues. Regarding elementary, junior high and high schools, we will revise the teaching guidelines and enrich marine education to permeate it systematically into related subjects and enable comprehensive learning according to developmental stage. In order to nurture and secure professional human resources, we intend to enhance marine education at higher education institution while strengthening industry-university collaboration. We will promote the collaboration of schools, social education facilities, industrial facilities, academic associations and various related organizations to promote efforts that emphasize dissemination activities.

402. Utilizing the 15.000 public halls network

Approximately 15.000 public halls are set up as social education facilities throughout our nation. The social education chiefs of educational committees in each place have focused on the promoting of lecture. However, it became obvious that the arrangement of social education supervisors is not sufficient, and the course contents tend to be strongly influenced by individual tastes.

Therefore, and while examining the ideal social education, we will transform it to social contribution education to identify and solve regional issues. We will enhance the support and collection of the best volunteer activities in each region in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Sports Agency and the Ministry of Justice.

403. Promoting not only natural science but also humanities and social science

The Nobel Prize honors academics and culturally active people worldwide. Since Japanese awards continues, the world highly appreciates our basic and natural sciences. On the other hand, no Japanese has never won the economic award. As the third largest economic power in the world, we will emphasize that Japanese research is valuable and important for investigating the cause of the

depression the world economy currently faces, and since we experience a prolonged deflationary recession, the world's lowest birthrate and an aging population, we will utilize our economic finance policy to overcome these issues.

Therefore, we will promote not only natural science but also humanities and social sciences. We will incorporate the research results of excellent scholars, promote joint research of the public and private sector, utilize the cross-appointment system, hire social scientists to the government and actively engage in personnel exchanges between the public and private sector. In addition, we will enrich our research expenses related to social sciences and strengthen our overseas dissemination capabilities.

Diplomacy and Defense

404. Practicing an “active pacifism”

The Japanese diplomacy currently greatly contribute to the international community. The “diplomacy having a high-angle vie on the globe” advanced by the Abe administration has become firmly rooted in the international society and community over the past three years.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has visited 63 countries and regions so far and has built relationships of mutual trust with various countries.

Via our highly-appreciated efforts on global issues, such as development, climate change, human rights, women rights and the rule of law, Japan continues to greatly contribute to the international community.

Meanwhile, Japan's security environment is becoming increasingly severe due to North Korea's nuclear test and ballistic missile launches or China's attempts to unilaterally change the current status quo in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. In addition to traditional security issues, new threats, such as international terrorism, cyber-attacks or other global problems including climate change, are getting worse.

Due to these circumstances, the Peace and Security Law established last year enable consistent responses to every possible situation and further contribute to the peace and stability of the international community as well as Japan.

It is no longer possible to preserve peace and security in our nation alone and further cooperation with the international community is required to solve global issues.

We will continue to practice “active pacifism” based on our international contributions.

405. Regaining a strong Japan-US alliance

The Japan-US alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy as well as peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Close communication between Japan and the United States is conducted on all levels, including summit talks. In the future, we will promote cooperation in all fields, including security, politics and economy, and will further strengthen the relationship to the US.

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In addition, in order to ensure peace and security in Japan, we promote the development of our defense capabilities and we aim to maintain and strengthen our deterrence capability based on the Japan-US security arrangement and in accordance with the new guidelines formulated last year.

We will promote the early relocation of the Futenma Air Station to Henoko City based on the “Japan-US agreement” to alleviate the burden of local residents. While listening to local voices, including Okinawa, we will steadily advance the reorganization of the US forces in Japan, including the reorganization of the US Marine Corps in Guam.

In addition, in cooperation with the US government, we will thoroughly pursue the prevention of military personnel and military affairs accidents and will examine the Japan-US territory agreement.

406. Realizing a free, rich and stable Asia

We strive to promote friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries to realize a free, rich and stable Asia. In addition to promoting improved relations with China and Russia, since we share strategic interests, we will also build cooperative relationships with Australia, India, ASEAN countries and Europe, since we share universal values, in a wide range of fields, such as energy policies, environmental problems or the protection of intellectual property rights.

Concerning challenges to the international order, the rule of law and common values in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, we seek to support the capacity development of maritime security organizations of Asian countries and will strengthen our cooperative relationships with the United States, Australia and Europe to maintain the order in Asia. Also, based on the Maritime Basic Law formulated by our party, we will secure the maritime interests of Japan by promoting the exploitation of marine resources and energy resources, extending the continental shelf, conducting marine surveys and carrying out a comprehensive legislation on our exclusive economic zones.

407. Promoting legal international cooperation

We will actively support the development of the legal system to contribute to sustainable growth targets in various countries, to realize the rule of law and good governance in Asian countries and eventually contribute to Japan's security.

408. Strengthening the relationship with a dynamic Africa

Backed by its high economic growth, abundant resources and population growth, Africa is advancing its presence in the international arena and we string to strengthen our reciprocal relationship with Africa.

By utilizing the 5th TICDAV which will be held for the first time in Africa this August, we will disseminate Japan's unique contributions to Africa, such as human resource development, high-quality infrastructure investment and technologies of Japanese companies.

Furthermore, by utilizing the Africa Economic Strategy Council established at the official residence of the Prime Minister last year, we will promote investments of Japanese companies in Africa and incorporate the vitality of Africa into the Japanese economy.

409. Securing maritime safety

Safe navigation and maritime security are directly linked to the existence and prosperity of our nation. Also, anti-piracy measures are important for protecting the lives and property of Japanese citizens.

Until now, in addition to strengthening our coastal maritime crackdown ability and human resource development, we have been working on piracy countermeasures, including the implementation of

laws to enable armed security guards to board ships. In cooperation with the international community, we will actively take measures against piracy off the coast of Somalia, in the Gulf of Aden and in Asia.

We also promote maritime security and defense cooperation with countries with whom we share the same values, such as the rule of law and freedom of navigation (capacity development support or joint trainings and drills).

410. Reinforcing international cooperation concerning disasters

Since natural disaster, such as earthquakes or typhoons, are become more frequent and more severe in various parts of the world, we will continue to proactively engage in international support activities in the case of disasters, including the dispatching of international emergency relief teams or personnel, materials and funds for emergency humanitarian assistance. Therefore, we will proceed to maintain the necessary equipment. We will also examine the functions and roles of required hospital ships.

Also, we will disseminate our lessons learned and gained knowledge regarding disaster response, such as disaster prevention, evacuation and relief systems, to the world as soft power.

Based on the Sendai Disaster Mitigation Framework 2015-2030 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction last year, we will share our disaster prevention knowledge and accumulated technology with the international community and further promote international cooperation on disaster prevention via the follow-up of the “World Tsunami Day” resolutions.

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411. Reforming the United Nations Security Council and increasing the Japanese staff at international organizations

Since last year marked the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we will promote an UN reform in cooperation with various countries and strengthen our efforts to realize Japan’s status as a permanent member of the Security Council.

In addition, in order to reinforce Japanese executives and staff at various international organizations, we actively work on establishing an effective system to dispatch Japanese, expand public relations activities and strengthen the recruitment system. Aside from conducting evaluations to raise the quality of our nation to various international organizations, we will endeavor to increase the number of skilled personnel at these institutions and enhance our international presence.

412. Supporting the overseas deployment of Japanese companies by utilizing diplomatic missions

By utilizing overseas diplomatic facilities and ODA, we will proactively promote the overseas expansion of Japanese companies and local governments, including SMEs, the export of infrastructural system and will also promote private trade investment. In addition to further promoting top sales, we will steadily conduct follow-ups on achievements.

We will position the support of the overseas expansion of Japanese companies as the primary task of overseas diplomatic missions and will provide maximum support by enhancing public-private partnerships.

413. Strengthening our relationship with developing countries by utilizing ODA

Development cooperation is an indispensable tool to advance Japan's diplomacy. Based on the new development cooperation principles formulated last year, we aim secure peace, stability and prosperity for the international community and will thereby also secure Japan's national interests.

In addition, by encouraging government ministries to actively, strategically and effectively utilize Official Development Assistance (ODA), 0,7% of the GNI will be provided for ODA while evaluating the outcome and taking efforts to gain the understanding of taxpayers. We strive to enhance ODA, while keeping international goals in mind, and will thereby strengthen our relations to developing countries.

In particular, we will support the overseas development of Japanese companies and local governments, including SMEs, by enhancing the export of infrastructural system, conducting resource diplomacy and engaging in technical cooperation via the strategic use of grant aid, ODA loans and overseas investment loans to emerging countries. We thereby aim to contribute to the revitalization of the Japanese economy by incorporating the growth of developing countries into our own growth.

In addition, we aim to establish a desirable international environment for Japan by supporting the development of a legal system to share universal values, such as basic human rights, women's rights or good governance.

Furthermore, to ensure peace and stability for the international society, we will provide humanitarian aid for refugees and peace building, will strengthen our security maintenance capacity, will counter terrorism and will strengthen our capacity related to oceans, space and cyber-security.

We will also establish a mechanism that maintains smooth relationships with ODA receiving countries.

414. Enhancing our resource diplomacy

Securing a stable and cheap supply of resources is the foundation of the Japanese economy and society. We will focus on daily diplomatic efforts by overseas embassies to strengthen our relations to major resource countries and diversify supply countries by utilizing international frameworks and other diplomatic tools, including ODA.

Parallely, we will establish a win-win relationship with partner countries by providing human resources for developing countries.

415. 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, active pacifism, women's success or human rights, we will therefore fundamentally strengthen our information dissemination to foreign countries. Thereby, we will

protect Japan's honor and national interests while also enhance the understanding of Japan's appeals and contributions. We will resolutely refuse to approach accusations.

Specifically, we will strengthen Japan's "correct image" and the dissemination of our 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, by considering establishing the "Japan House" as a major cultural diplomatic base for public relations.

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In order to cultivate scholarships for excellent talents, we will expand our bilingual program and support Japanese research and language education bases to enhance the exchange of young people and the cooperation with Japanese Americans in Central and South America.

By reinforcing domestic think tanks and the network construction with overseas think tanks, we will intensify the number of experts related to diplomacy and security actively participating in the formation of the international public's opinion.

In addition, in order to successfully host the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, we will promote overseas exchanges in the sport and cultural field and enhance our budget, personnel and public-private partnerships.

416. Reinforcing our efforts on global issues

Based on the philosophy of human security, and by strengthening the cooperation with United Nations organization, we will promote our efforts on global environmental issues, such as climate change, disaster prevention, health systems and health coverage (UHC), infectious disease, gender equality, women's education, global warming and food problems directly linked to the lives of people, including measure on water resources and sanitation.

In particular, we will accelerate our efforts to achieve international developmental goals (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) which were adopted last year as the successor to the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) at the COP21. We will also actively contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement as an international framework of fair and effective global warming countermeasures.

In addition, we will actively participate in the creation of international rules to realize the operation of the "rule of law" concerning the ocean, space and cyber space.

417. Ensuring the security of Japanese overseas companies

Due to the drastic change in the situation in the Middle East and the growing threat of international terrorism, we will effectively utilize the newly established "International Terrorist Information Collection Unit" to enhance our cross-boundary information gathering, analysis and dissemination structure to strengthen cooperative relations with the public and private sector as well as with foreign nationals in a case of emergency.

Furthermore, to be able to quickly and properly respond to attacks, we strive to fundamentally strengthen the security of overseas schools and public facilities.

In addition, based on the enforcement of the Peace and Safety Law, and since many there is the possibility of Japanese nationals being affected by emergency cases, such as terror attacks, we will take every possible effort to ensure the safety of Japanese people living abroad by improving the response capability of the Self-Defense Forces.

418. Reinforcing our diplomatic implementation structure

In order to tackle diverse diplomatic issues, it is essential to further expand the diplomatic implementation system as the foundation of our diplomacy based resolutions and recommendations of our party's Diplomatic Revitalization Strategy Council (utilization of ODA, budget expansion, diplomatic capacity expansion, strengthening of strategic external dissemination, protection of Japanese people, enhancement of the information gathering capability, structural enhancement, establishment of diplomatic facilities in foreign countries, strengthening the security system at overseas diplomatic missions).

Also, we will make active use of experienced ministers to develop wide and sound diplomatic international relations.

419. Promoting international free trade

Free trade is the pillar of Japan's foreign trade policy. In order to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trading system and based on the stagnation of the WTO Doha-Round negotiations, we will renew the existing negotiation framework and will continue to urge the WTO negotiations to respond to new challenges.

At the same time, we aim to establish rules that enable the coexistence of diverse agricultural industries of each country and the sustainable use of forestry and fishery resources via agricultural negotiations.

In addition, we will actively promote economic partnerships (EPA or FTA) in line with our national interests and great merits while maintaining necessary border measures for regional areas and ensuring a sound domestic economy.

Yet, while Japan is said to be a trade-dependent nation, the actual proportion of trade of our GDP is under 20%. By achieving a strong economic growth based on domestic and foreign demand, Japan has to establish a multilateral free trade system, while also setting our national interests as the top priority. In order to ensure our national interests, Japan will demonstrate international leadership in formulating global rules.

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We will promote regional economic partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region, such as the early enforcement of the Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) and expand FTAs with nations in the East Asian region, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Since the international trade competition intensifies, we will promote free trade and mutual cooperative relations via economic partnership agreements responding to the needs of foreign countries, including developing and emerging countries.

In particular, the establishment of a huge free trade zone via the TPP provides new growth opportunities for many companies. We have established the New Export Power Council as a support organization to provide the opportunities by TPP for small and medium-sized enterprises. We will support the overseas expansion of SMEs and the launch of overseas stores by providing support exports for local business consultations.

420. Promoting investment agreements and the conclusion of tax treaties

In order to transform interests gained in overseas markets to domestic value-added wealth, we will promote the liberalization of capital flows via tax treaties and bilateral investment agreements (EPA or FTA with investment chapter). We aim to reduce the taxation of overseas dividends, royalties and subsidiaries as much as possible.

Currently, Japan concluded investment treaties with 35 countries (as of March 2016) is thereby lagging far behind other developed countries. Therefore, and in accordance with the actual demand of the economy, we strive to improve the quality of the existing agreements and will strategically develop new agreements with Latin American and African nations.

421. Developing our defense capabilities to adapt to a changing security environment

As the world's power balance fluidizes, deformations in our security environment have occurred, such as repeated nuclear tests and missile launches by the unpredictable leader of North Korea or challenges of the international order by China's rising power in the East China Sea and South China Sea.

To strengthen Japan's defense posture, we will increase the personnel and equipment of the SDF based on the new "Defense Outline" and the "Medium-term Defense Capability Improvement Plan" formulated in 2013 and will also promote the construction of an "Integrated Mobile Defense Force" to ensure the necessary and adequate "quality" and "quantity" of our defense capabilities, such as the enhancement of our deterrence and coping ability.

Specifically, while paying attention to the further enhancement of integrated functions, we will secure our maritime and air superiority and improve our mobilizing capabilities. In particular, we will respond to space and cyber-space issues, island attacks, ballistic missile attacks as well as large-scale disasters by enhancing our warning and monitoring ability, transportation capacity, command and information communication capabilities and information gathering function. We will also strengthen our functions and abilities to participate in international peace cooperation activities. Furthermore, we will proceed to respond to changes in our security environment based on our Defense Outline and Medium-Term Initiative.

Also, and based on the fact that a consistent peace and security legislations has been enforced this year, we will continue to preserve our pledge to not repeat the disaster of war ever again. In order to firmly defend our lives, territory, territorial waters and airspace, we will prepare a thorough attitude, including the strengthened cooperation with allies and befriended countries on our steady defense capabilities, and will continue to contribute actively to peace, stability and prosperity for the international community.

422. Strengthening the Japan-US alliance by new guidelines

In order to respond to our increasingly severe security environment, it is essential to conduct constant efforts to maintain and strengthen the Japan-US security arrangements. Based on the new guidelines formulated last year, we will implement joint trainings, such as bilateral and multilateral drills, improve our monitoring and response capabilities in the cyber-space and enhance the standard of defense equipment. In cooperation with the United States and other allies, we will fortify the technical cooperation and promote the efficient acquisition and improvement of efficient equipment, strengthen the role of the SDF and will further improve the general reliability of this alliance.

423. Promoting strategic defense cooperation with allies

In order to improve the security environment of Japan, it is necessary to strengthen the security cooperation with Australia, South Korea, India, ASEAN countries and other nations with whom we share important strategic interests.

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We will combine strategic effects to promote international defense cooperation, such as cooperation on a multilateral framework and human exchanges, inter-unit exchanges, joint exercises, cooperation on defense equipment and technology and capacity building support and will expand the ASEAN Defense Minister Meeting (ADMM Plus).

424. Promoting international peace cooperation operations by the SDF

With the enforcement of the peace and security legislation, the SDF has been enabled to actively contribute to peace and security in the international community more than ever.

For example, if the international community acts jointly in a situation where the peace and security of the international community is threatened, we will consider whether or not to participate as a member of the international community and whether or not the participation contributes to our national interests.

Regarding UN PKOs, we will continue to dispatch Self-Defense Forces to the South Sudan PKO and will work on further support foreign troops by dispatching HQ personnel, including highly skilled and experienced SDF units, by taking advantage of our accumulated knowledge and experiences.

Furthermore, in order to protect and ensure the safety of Japanese nationals who may be injured in emergencies in foreign states and to dispatch SDF units if necessary, we will deepen the cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies and respond in unison with other governments.

In addition, since the continuing piracy measures taken by the international community, including the activities of the SDF, have been successful, we are committed to ensuring safe navigation for extremely important maritime traffic routes. In order to contribute to peace and stability, we will continue to cooperate with the international community to ensure anti-piracy operations off Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

425. **Strengthening our crisis management system to deal with various threats and disasters**
- We will implement measures against large-scale terroristic and guerilla attacks and NB (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) weapons to safeguard important facilities, such as nuclear power plants, from unprecedented circumstances and to respond to natural disasters, we will enrich the necessary personal and equipment of related organizations while strengthening the cooperation of the SDF, the police and the Japan Coast Guards.
- Furthermore, we will enhance the cooperation of related ministries and agencies, local governments, business operators and residents to quickly and smoothly respond to all possible emergencies, such as ballistic missile launches or armed attacks. In addition to conducting joint trainings and drills, we will constantly monitor and improve various assumed situations to improve our comprehensive capacity to cope with crises, including legal aspects.
426. **Improving the treatment and honor of Self-Defense Force members and promote compensation measures**
- We will improve the honor and treatment of SDF members so that they can carry out their duties with high morale and pride.
- Specifically, taking the special nature of the duties of crew members into consideration, we will try to improve various allowances according to duties and will expand the budget so that our military personnel can push forward their duties without regretting it.
- Also, by honoring the achievement of individual members, we will promote policies to honor and reward SDF members by the state to encourage them to conduct their duties with pride and honor.
- In particular, we will continue to consider the expansion of the scope of decorations and expand the Defense Achievement Chapter.
427. **Reducing the burden on residents living around military bases**
- In order to reduce the burden of residents living around military bases, including Okinawa, as soon as possible, it is necessary to organize and consolidate the Japan-US security system while maintaining our deterrence power. We will steadily advance the reorganization of the US forces in Japan, such as the relocation of drills or the relocation of the US Marine Corps to Guam, and will promote the improvement of living environments and employment creation.
- In particular, in order to realize the fast elimination of the Futenma airfield as soon as possible, we will promote the relocation to Nago based on the Japan-US agreement, extend special reorganization measures and will take careful measures for concerned local governments.
428. **Securing technological superiority and strengthening defense technology production bases**
- As technology and equipment advances globally, we will conduct strategic R&D by defense equipment agencies to advance our defense equipment and promote cooperation with our allies on defense and technical equipment to secure our technical superiority and maintain and strengthen our defense technology production bases.

Specifically, we will formulate defense technology and R&D strategies based on possible mid- to long-term threats and technological trends while also providing corporate funds and utilizing long-term contracts to collectively procure R&D visions.

With dual use technology in mind, we established a control center for security-related technology which is monitored by the government, strengthened the collaboration of the Ministry of Defense, related ministries and agencies as well as various research institutes and significantly expanded our R&D funds. We will utilize the basic research result and superior consumer technology to enhance R&D on voluntary advanced and converted defense technology and equipment.

In order to maintain and strengthen the technical supply chain and infrastructure and to acquire technological superiority, we will secure the necessary and sufficient budget and strategically promote domestic development and production.

In addition, based on the joint development of interceptor ballistic missile defense equipment and the experiences of domestic enterprises manufacturing the F-35 jet, we will promote effective international joint development and production. Regarding the overseas relocation of defense equipment, and since Japan cannot secure its peace and security alone, we will promote security and defense cooperation by appropriately implementing the compliance with the Three Principles of Defense Equipment Relocation and thereby enhancing peace contribution, international cooperation and joint safety with foreign countries.

Furthermore, we will reform related organization and institutions to enable the effective and appropriate dissemination of technologies and equipment developed by the Ministry of Defense to foreign governments, other ministries and agencies as well as private enterprises. We will also implement measures to protect highly advanced technology and confidential information.

429. Constructing a robust social infrastructure by the G-space project (geospatial information)

We will utilize the combined G-space information (geospatial information), consisting of geographical information and satellite positioning information, as the electronic base to form a robust social infrastructure and information center on our territory and territorial waters. Therefore, in order to efficiently utilize and update various G-space information possessed by the national government, local governments or the private sector, we set up a G-space information center to examine the security of Japan's diplomacy, economy and defense and to realize the toughening of our nation.

Moreover, based on the semi-zenith satellite system, and by cooperating with various nations on the operation of our satellite system, we will contribute to a strong security, disaster prevention marine surveillance and the national land management of Japan and ASEAN countries.

430. Promoting the utilization of the space to contribute to Japan's security

While keeping an eye on the trends of foreign countries, we will promote the stable and effective utilization of and R&D on the space.

Specifically, we will accelerate R&D that contribute to Japan's security, such as high-resolution recording, high frequency information gathering satellites and early warning satellites. We will also

promote the development of satellite systems for various purposes, such as communication, weather observation and reconnaissance, to be used by the SDF, central ministries or other related organizations.

In addition, we will promote the development of dual-use space systems in order to maintain and strengthen our ground-based systems while also developing a system for the establishment and maintenance of launch sites and space technology bases.

Regarding information gathering satellites, we plan to strengthen our information gathering capability by aiming to establish an operation system with ten aircrafts while proceeding to secure the necessary financial resources. Furthermore, we will establish a semi-zenith satellites system by 2023 to promote our satellite positioning policy that will enhance Japan's international presence while also contributing to the stability of the Asia-Oceania region.

Also, we promote international cooperation with various nations, including the United States, on space dialogues, consultation and jointly grasping the space situation. We will furthermore actively contribute to the discussion on international rulemaking to realize the rule of law in outer space.

In addition, we will secure Japan's security interests by utilizing G-space information (geospatial information), consisting of geographical and satellite positioning information, as a nation and constructing a robust social infrastructure.

431. Inhibiting North Korea's nuclear development and missile launches

Repeated nuclear tests and missile launches by North Korea pose a serious threat to Japan's security and challenge the international community.

We aim to completely resolve the abduction, nuclear and missile issues by securing the effectiveness of resolutions by the UN Security Council, strengthening the cooperation with concerned countries and stopping North Korea's nuclear development and missile launches.

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In order to maintain the NPT (nuclear non-proliferation treaty) regime, Japan plays a leading role in advancing international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

432. Strengthening our deterrence capability to cope with ballistic missile attacks

Since North Korea is progressing its nuclear and ballistic missile development, including repeating nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, it is important to protect the lives and property of Japanese citizens. While continuing with research on Japan's trajectory, we also study advanced initiatives and equipment in cooperation with the United States to strengthen the readiness of our ballistic missile defense system and to simultaneously advance our coping and deterrence capability.

433. Realizing the immediate return of all abductees

The abduction issue is the top priority of the Abe administration and based on the principles of "dialogue and pressure" and "action against action", we will open the dialogue with North Korea while implementing strict sanctions and considering further measures regarding North Korea's provocative acts.

In addition to requesting the adoption of the abduction resolutions by the US Congress, we will strengthen our collaboration with the United States and South Korea and will actively engage the United Nations. With all means in mind, we will realize the immediate return of all abduction victims and will strongly urge North Korea to investigate the truth and to hand over the offenders.

434. Strengthening our efforts on the Northern Territory and the Takeshima issue

We will revitalize the negotiations at summit level for an early return of the Northern Territory and Takeshima since these territories are still illegally occupied by Russia and Korea. Also, in order to continue to raise public awareness on this issue, we will strengthen our public relations and educational activities in Japan and will expand the descriptions in textbooks.

435. 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.

436. Strengthening our island defense

China repeatedly invades Japan's territorial waters and airspace around the Senkaku Islands and we will therefore strengthen our island defense to be prepared for unforeseen violations of our territorial sovereignty.

We have already deployed SDF units to the southwest area, including the new early warning aircraft E-2C and two squadrons of F-15 units at the Naha base. But since the situation in the South China Seas is changing rapidly, we will deploy additional troops and equipment, including information communication equipment or backup support, and will also keep the police and coast guards in mind. We will further expand the related budget, accelerate the strengthening of our coping capability with various situations, enhance the surveillance of illegal acts by foreign ships and enforce our regulatory control capability.

In addition, we will advance the legislation to safeguard unmanned border remote islands and protect local communities in designated manned border islands and also strive to properly manage and preserve our territorial waters and exclusive economic zones.

Administrative and governmental reforms

437. Promoting true administrative reforms

We will advance true administrative reforms 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. We will thereby improve the quality of lives and realize high-quality administration trusted by citizens.

438. Utilizing Big Data and ICT

We will promote the utilization of Big Data and ICT. By introducing the My Number system, utilizing personal and corporate numbers as well as reducing attached documents, we will improve the convenience of citizens, enhance the administrative efficiency and simplify administrative procedures. In order to maximize policy effects with a limited budget, we will further utilize statistical data, academic knowledge and the “evidence system” (policy making based on evidence) to advance human resource development and improve the accuracy of statistics.

* EBPM: Evidence Based Policy Making

439. Reviewing the administrative stance for the public

In order to realize a high-quality administration trusted by citizens, it is important to establish the PDCA cycle to enable administrative personnel to evaluate and analyze their stance themselves.

Therefore, as a pillar of the central government reform, we aim to examine the policy evaluation system introduced by the government in 2001 to improve the quality and effectiveness of policy evaluations.

In addition, we will review policies in line with changes in the economic and social environment and conduct cross-sectional reviews of policies of the Cabinet Office based on a national perspective.

440. Expenditure reform (eradicating squandering)

The Abled administration is steadily progressing expenditure reforms. Most recently, as a result of checking all funds for public benefits, we achieved a state treasury surplus of 500 billion Yen in two years since 2015. In addition, we examined the fund system required for annual budgeting and it sharply decreased from 2.4 trillion Yen in FY2014 to 0.9 trillion Yen in 2016. Based on the government information system, the total cost of each government ministry has been reduced by approximately 100 billion Yen by the end of 2015.

Thereby, we will establish a budget PDCA cycle for politicians to take the responsibility for expenditure reforms, link government budgeting and administrative project reviewing to identify effective and inefficient businesses, reduce expenditures, improve transparency and to enhance administrative efficiency.

In addition, we will consider strengthening the system to enhance the monitoring function of the Board of Audit.

441. Civil servant system reform

We will proceed realize a national civil servant system capable of acting as diverse, proud and talented personnel for national citizens. By recruiting talented personnel, we promote the transformation of the system, improve the organizational vitality and implement awards for hard-working civil servants based on the personnel affairs evaluation of performance and skills.

Regarding reemployment restrictions, we will strictly sanction *amakudari* and will thereby dispel citizens' suspicions.

442. Reforming funds, special accounting and independent administrative agencies

We will carefully review independent administrative agencies and general accounts to reserve surpluses for funds and special accounting. We will promote the transformation of general accounts to national accounts and the suppression of administrative expense grants by utilizing the increased financial revenue and project cost control of independent administrative institutions.

443. Securing the transparency of political funds

We will ensure the transparency of political funds by securing the transparency of political activities by, for example, labor unions.

Also, in order to gain broad support from citizens, we will promote individual donations by expanding tax incentives for donations.

444. Examining the reform of central ministries

Taking into account that many people face their 100th year of life, we will organize the new administration in line with changes in the social and economic demand and will thereby improve the social security and existing administrative system. We will review the reform of the central government ministries, including the reorganization of ministries and agencies, by examining the work content of each ministry and agency.

445. Political participation of the younger generations

Based on the fact that the voting age has been lowered to 18 years, we will consider reducing the age of election candidates. We will also examine the possibility to utilize the internet for elections to prepare an environment for young people to actively participate in politics.

446. Reforming the House of Councils election system

Regarding the historical, cultural and political importance of prefectures, and based on the role of the House of Councils in the bicameral system, we will carry out the constitutional revision on the premise that at least one person from each prefecture will be elected.

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447. The Board of Audit

The Board of Audit prevents the unauthorized use and squandering of reform money and clarifies the responsibilities of civil servants. Therefore, the “Partial Revision Act of Accounting and Auditing Institutions” was established to expand the duties and authority of the Board of Audit, to promote the correction of unfair matters and to clarify the responsibilities of budget accounting 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.

448. Regulating the political role of local government officials

By promoting decentralization, it is essential to recognize that local government officials have essential administrative responsibilities to maintain the political neutrality of civil servants.

Therefore, we will implement penalties for local public officials similar to the ones for government officials and will amend the “Local Public Service Law” to regulate certain political activities.

449. Promoting the decentralization reform

We will promote the decentralization reform to create a framework that enables local governments to solve problems according to local characteristics and to position local governments as an important foundation for local creation. Regarding the transfer of authority to provinces and the deregulation of the recruitment system, we will work on supporting and developing the best measures to support regional wisdom, to realize utmost enthusiasm and to encourage citizens to recognize the benefits of this reform.

We will also secure financial resources, for example via local tax allocation, which are indispensable for the stable fiscal management of local governments.

450. 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. Also, we will review the authority of Governors, Audit Committees, the Congress and local public bodies to enable them to fulfill their active role in local creation, residents’ lawsuits and clerical work.

451. Introducing the *doshu* system

Recently, since the infrastructure development and disaster prevention are urgent issues, and since the evolution to an internet society is further progressing due to severe social changes caused by the remarkable development of information and communication technology, we have to take efforts to gain the understanding of people to prepare our nation for the future era and to realize a hopeful nation.

We will introduce the *doshu* system as a complementation of conventional regional and national functions to realize an international competitive regional management and to realize municipalities and local public entities in close relation to residents. Therefore, in order to boost regional vitality and independence, we will enhance the cooperation of local public entities and utilize it as a wide-area coalition.

452. Respecting the recommendation system of national personnel authorities

We will respect the recommendations of national personnel authorities to secure a salary level for national civil servants as a compensatory measure based on the constitutional basic labor rights.

453. 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.

Constitutional revision

We strive to form a consensus of all citizens on the revision of the constitution

454. Emphasizing the three principles of national sovereignty, fundamental human rights and pacifism

Our party has already stipulated and established a draft version of the revised constitution.

By amending the constitution, we will maintain the three basic principles of the current constitution which are national sovereignty, respecting human rights and pacifism.

The constitutional amendment referendum law is already in place and the national referendum for revising the constitution can be implemented. To amend the constitution, it is necessary to achieve a two-third majority in the House of Representatives and a simple majority via the referendum.

Therefore, we will proceed with the discussion at the Constitutional Review Board of the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors and will work with every party to form a consensus among citizens and realize the constitutional revision.

456. Proposing the amended draft version of the constitution

Our party already presented the “draft amendment of the constitution of Japan” in April 2012.

- (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 provision 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”.