

Fifth Report by the Council for Promotion of  
Regulatory Reform  
“From Heisei to Reiwa – Diversity Opening Up New  
Future”

Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform

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## I General Remarks

### 1. Introduction

The Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) is an advisory body to the Prime Minister for comprehensively researching and deliberating the status of regulations required for promoting the structural reform of the economy and society, and its period of installation is about three years until July 31 of this year.

During this last term of the mandate period since October of 2018, among other issues, those to be addressed urgently were identified and intensive study and discussion were conducted on those issues, resulting in the Fourth Report by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform (hereinafter referred to as “the 4<sup>th</sup> Report”) dated November 19 of the said year.

This Fifth Report has compiled the results of the deliberation on regulatory reform items that the Council has been working on for the past year.

### 2. Circumstances Surrounding Regulatory Reform and Roles of the Council

In extremely rapid change of times, regulations need to be reviewed constantly. This is because all regulations are rooted in necessities but those necessities may change as economic and social circumstances change as seen in technological innovation. If regulations that have lost their necessity are lingering, the vitality of industries may be hindered, innovation can be prevented, prices can remain at high levels, and other harmful influences can arise to damage the strength of the Japanese economy.

Meanwhile, the rapid progress in digitization may require a new regulatory framework. Regulations to cope with the emerging sharing economy which includes things like Minpaku services and the era of 5G.

In these changing economic environments, the Council has been mandated with the role of promoting reforms in a speedy manner by constantly assessing the necessity of regulations, challenging regulations that have lost their necessities, and urging the change in the regulatory system to cope with emerging issues.

In this term, the focus of our discussion was placed, among other issues, on the following points:

- 1) The Fourth Industrial Revolution is giving rise to innovations in various areas such as finance, communication, education, medical service and agriculture;
- 2) In connection with the declining birthrate and aging population, the most serious challenges we are facing today, there is urgent need for regulatory reform to overcome the so-called “First-Grader Wall” and to achieve “No Worker Leaving Work for Nursing Care” with an aim to realize better work environments for workers raising children and workers taking care of a family member; and
- 3) It is required to aggressively promote regional reinvigoration by generating regional energy.

Most of the regulatory reforms that the Council has worked on so far are difficult to be achieved due to structural restraints, and a single report would not be enough to help accomplish the goal. Even after the submission of a report, it will be necessary for us to monitor the progress of reform efforts in the areas we have identified and to patiently follow up on those efforts until the expected effects can be seen. This is also an important role entrusted to the Council.

The Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan (Cabinet decision on June, 2018) requires that, “concerned government agencies should have their implementation polices subjected to the review by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform” before putting into implementing actions defined by the Council. In order to cope with this requirement, we have further improved the mechanism for following up on the progress of the actions to ensure the effectiveness of our follow-up activities.

In addition, as in the former terms, we invited opinions and requests from all levels of civil society through the Regulatory Reform Hotline and other mechanisms, and took up as many of them as possible for discussion in order to take into our consideration the real opinions of people working on the front line.

### 3. Consultation Process

#### (1) Topic Selection and Organizational Framework for Consultation

At the 37th Council meeting held on October 12, 2018, the following working groups were established as the discussion system for this term: Administrative Procedures Group, Agriculture and Forestry Working Group, Fisheries Working Group, Medical Service/Nursing Care Working Group, Child Care/Employment Working Group, and Investment Working Group. And, around the following three pillar topics, 19 priority areas of action to be worked on during this term have been identified.

- 1) Regulatory and institutional reforms to promote innovations and innovative businesses through the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- 2) Regulatory and institutional reforms to promote support mechanisms in the area of child care and nursing care in view of our aging population with a falling birth rate; and
- 3) Regulatory and institutional reforms to further promote regional revitalization.

Among the above, on issues to be tackled urgently, the Council prepared and finalized the 4<sup>th</sup> Report on November 19, 2018.

Then, at the 42th Council meeting held on February 26 of this year, with a view to providing the 5<sup>th</sup> Report, 14 priority areas of action and 6 priority areas for follow-up were defined after “Regulatory and institutional reforms to promote working style reform” was added to the above pillar topics. Regarding this new pillar topic, regulatory reforms to promote second jobs and dual employment was adopted as a theme for deliberation, and the “Task Force for Improvement of Rules Contributing to Diversification of Work Styles” was established to discuss the theme from a professional viewpoint.

Opinions and ideas submitted through the Regulatory Reform Hotline were also subjected to examination by the “expert team” in addition to deliberation by relevant working groups.

#### (2) Follow-up on the progress of the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan

A great deal of time and energy were put into following up on the progress of the regulatory reform so far achieved. In addition to careful examination and assessment of the progress of the actions specified in the Implementation Plan, the Council designated those of special importance as “priority follow-up areas” on which discussions were made.

(3) Holding of a public discussion session

The Council has adopted “promotion of leading-edge technologies in education” including tele-teaching as one of important areas of action and discussed the subject on many occasions. Since this is an important topic relevant to many people, a public discussion session was held on March 11, 2019.

Observers and audience members were recruited from a variety of social strata and the session was also broadcast via the Internet in order to discuss the topic taking into consideration opinions and ideas from the audience.

(4) Receiving ideas and opinions through the Regulatory Reform Hotline

As in the preceding term, the “Regulatory Reform Hotline” has been open to receive opinions and ideas to promote regulatory reform. So far 1,692 opinions (as of April 30, 2019) have been received since August, 2016.

Prior to the start of this term, in September of 2018, we conducted the campaign to “intensively solicit opinions from the public” and received 372 opinions in just one month. The holding of the campaign was actively advertised in advance not only through the Cabinet Office’s website but also by soliciting opinions and ideas from local governments and other relevant organizations.

Ideas and opinions submitted through the Hotline were communicated to relevant ministries for their consideration and 1,592 responses received from them (as of April 30, 2019) were published on our website. Matters regarding which responses were received but require further careful examination and deliberation were reported by the Hotline Team to the Council. Then the Council had relevant working groups carefully examine and discuss those matters and used the results of such careful examination and discussion in formulating specific reform actions.

Further, two expert team meetings were held in order to promote active discussion on ideas submitted through the Hotline, and, based on the discussion, relevant working groups worked out actions for reform.

(5) Initiatives of relevant ministries toward regulatory reform

Based on the stance that ministries themselves should take initiative in assessing and verifying the effectiveness of regulations under their jurisdiction, a mechanism for “reviewing regulations” was formulated in accordance with the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan of June, 2014. Those ministries have been urged to prepare a “regulations sheet” so that they can have transversal understanding of their regulations that allows them to take initiative in working on regulatory reform.

Then in response to the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan of June, 2016, the “Basic Guidelines for Implementing Policy Evaluation” (adopted by the Cabinet on December 16, 2005) was amended so that, starting from October, 2017, any regulation subjected to ex-ante evaluation should receive ex-post assessment and evaluation or assessment should be conducted at each stage of the “life cycle of a regulation” as from the discussion until the review.

The discussion and review after a certain period of implementation of regulations by ministries should be centrally and continuously monitored by the mechanism under the

Government Policy Evaluations Act (Act No. 86). The timing of the review should, as before, be decided in accordance with the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan of June, 2014.

It will be necessary to continue to urge, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) having jurisdiction over the policy evaluation system, relevant ministries to voluntarily and actively examine regulations under their jurisdiction.

#### 4. Working toward Realizing this Report

After this report is submitted to the Prime Minister comes the stage “implementation.” In order to immediately set out to reform all regulatory reform items cited here to steadily realize reforms with deadlines set, it is necessary to formulate a schedule detailing the process to be followed through realization of reforms, which means “the Implementation Plan for Regulatory Reform”, and have it decided by Cabinet.

Many regulations involve a structure where interest conflicts, which leads to a passive stance being adopted by regulatory enforcement ministries and agencies and is a principal factor in preventing reforms from being advanced. In order to move reforms forward, interested parties in a variety of positions will need to be persuaded and coordinated to surmount such a structure. This hinges wholly upon political leadership. There are strong expectations for political leadership so that the content of this report may be realized to the greatest extent.

#### 5. To the next step

While regulatory reform is the top priority of the growth strategy, the Council is going to dissolve at the end of this July. However, as elaborated above, on-going examination of and discussion about regulations is indispensable for us to cope with changes in our socio-economic structure and to maintain a rich and vigorous society.

In order to continue to promote regulatory reform in an effective manner, it is important to promptly set up a new organization that will take over the mandate of the Council so that on-going efforts toward regulatory reform will be maintained.

Meanwhile, some of the regulatory reform actions recommended in this and former reports and those specified in the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan are not yet put into implementation as of today. Therefore, it will be essential for the new organization to follow up on the progress of those actions even after the dissolution of the Council. In the course of such follow-up, efforts for reform by relevant ministries should be monitored carefully and patiently until the realization of reform with a focus on the appropriate reflection of the Council’s recommendations and by watching for any retrogressive movements.

We hope that the new organization mandated with regulatory reform will attain further progress through more effective and efficient cooperation with the Growth Strategy Council - Investing for the Future, the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, the Advisory Council on National Strategic Special Zone and other relevant groups.

## II Promoting regulatory reform in each sector

### 1. Agriculture and Forestry sectors

It is urgently needed for our agricultural industry facing aging farmers and lack of agricultural manpower to improve productivity by promoting the use of data and advanced technologies such as drones, advanced farm machines and crop cultivating facilities. Comprehensive review of restrictions including those hindering the introduction of these technologies is required in order to encourage the entry of young people into agriculture.

Meanwhile, affordable and high-quality production materials are indispensable in turning agriculture into a growth industry. While farmers themselves are required to reconsider their procurement methods, it is necessary to revise regulations to promote cost cutting through business operators' creativity.

Based on the standpoint above, the following actions for regulatory reform have been identified.

#### (1) Review of regulations hampering utilization of drones

##### A. Regulations based on the Civil Aeronautics Act

[a, c: To be implemented in July, 2019; b, d, e: To be implemented in the first half of FY2019]

###### **<Basic Stance>**

With the Civil Aeronautics Act (Act No. 231, 1952) being amended in 2015, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) is now fully in charge of the Act-based safety regulations on unmanned aircrafts, whether they be unmanned helicopters or state-of-the-art drones.

However, safety regulations of navigation on unmanned aircrafts that spray agricultural chemicals are subject to the “Permission and Approval Judgment Guideline for Unmanned Aircrafts Flight” (notification by the Director-General, Civil Aviation Bureau, MLIT November 17, 2015, hereinafter referred to as “the Judgment Guideline”), “Treatment of Permission and Approval Regarding Unmanned Aircrafts Flight for Aerial Spraying or the like” [notification by the Director-General, Civil Aviation Bureau, MLIT and Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), December 3, 2015] and the “Technical Guidance Guideline for Use of Unmanned Aircrafts for Aerial Spraying” (notification by the Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Director-General, MAFF, December 3, 2015, hereinafter referred to as “the Technical Guidance Guideline”).

According to the Technical Guidance Guideline, Japan Agricultural Aviation Association (hereinafter referred to as “the Association”) is certified as the only registration certification organization that can make proxy applications based on the Civil Aeronautics Act. In addition to proxy applications, the Association approves operators and airframes.

The Technical Guidance Guideline is believed to have been formulated based on the Civil Aeronautics Act and Agricultural Chemicals Control Act (Act No. 82, 1948), but the specific legal basis is not clear. Although it does not impose duties based on the Civil Aeronautics Act, there is a misconception in agriculture that the Association’s approvals

of operators and airframes are compulsory or that the Association has authority for approval and license based on Civil Aeronautics Law.

In addition, state-of-the-art drones' automatic pilot and camera function will improve their navigation accuracy and ensure safety and MLIT admits that such functions are safety ensuring means in the Judgment Guideline, but the Association does not accept the proxy application for state-of-the-art drones equipped with these functions.

When using a drone, the user is requested to submit a project plan before a drone project and a project report after the project based on The Technical Guidance Guideline to the prefectural council instead of reporting to MLIT, which is burdensome to farmers, preventing agricultural drones from being introduced.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a As for the most advanced drones, MAFF shall abolish the current Technical Guidance Guideline and formulate new guideline to ensure the safe use of agricultural chemicals. MLIT shall formulate new Civil Aviation Bureau Standard Manual for aerial spraying of agricultural chemicals.
- b MAFF shall inform thoroughly local municipalities and relevant parties that as the Association's direct approval of operators and airframes is what it is doing voluntarily, there is no need to obtain it.
- c When it comes to conventional unmanned helicopters, the following measures shall be taken in consideration of avoiding on-site confusion.
  - Aviation security shall be regulated through the Judgment Guideline or notices co-jurisdiction by MLIT and MAFF.
  - MAFF shall formulate a new guideline for the safety of agricultural chemicals.
  - Reporting to a prefectural council shall be minimal and online reporting shall be promoted.
- d Under the MLIT's Judgment Guideline, 10 hours of flight history are required for both autopilot and manual control licenses. However, as for agricultural drones with an autopilot function, this requirement shall be exempted when an aerial vehicle with the appropriate autopilot function and performance is used and the person has received training on basic operation including flight route setting in accordance with the functions and performance of respective vehicle models and how to deal with troubles. For this purpose, the Judgment Guideline shall be amended to clarify conditions for the exemption of the flight history requirement by including examples of necessary training (e.g. classroom lecture, flight training) and the revised Guideline shall be posted on the Civil Aviation Bureau's website for dissemination of the information.
- e In order to expand the utilization of state-of-the-art agricultural drones through a proxy application system based on the Judgment Guideline, MAFF shall urge dealers and makers to make proxy applications for a drone fly permit for customers with an aim to establish a track record of applications for a permit to fly drones equipped with an autopilot function and a camera function.

#### **B. Regulations under the Agricultural Chemicals Control Act**

### <Basic Stance>

For efficient use of agricultural chemicals, using a drone is effective.

The Agricultural Chemicals Control Act obliges agricultural chemicals makers to register and to indicate dilution rates of agricultural chemicals and users to comply with the rates and time of use.

Low dilution rates allowable for land spraying do not apply to aerial spraying by drones as the amount of spraying solution is too great. Agricultural chemicals available for drones are limited to around 500 types. In terms of agricultural products, the number drops significantly. For citrus, for example, just two types are available. While expanding agricultural chemicals types available for drones is necessary, easing the dilution rates requirement is essential when making a drone spray agricultural chemicals permitted for land spraying.

However, changing dilution rates likewise requires agricultural chemicals makers' registration and indication, for which the Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center's (FAMIC) inspection is needed. As this inspection takes agricultural chemicals residue data from scratch, it costs tens of millions of yen, which prevents the expansion of the types available to drones.

### <Items to be Implemented>

- a The Agricultural Chemicals Control Act does not include the types of spraying devices in the criteria that agricultural chemical users should comply with. MAFF shall inform relevant parties that agricultural chemical users will determine whether to use drones in various aspects such as "spraying", "weed foliage application", "flooding spraying" and "overall soil application."
- b When making an alteration registration application for the review of dilution rates of existing (ground) spraying agricultural chemicals, FAMIC's agricultural chemical residue test shall be replaced with a test on beneficial and harmful effects to significantly reduce the inspection cost.

## C. Regulations under the Radio Act

[a: To be implemented in 2020; b, c: To be implemented promptly during FY2019;

d: To be established promptly during 2019 and thereafter implemented on an ongoing basis]

### <Basic Stance>

In order to ensure the safety of drone flight, collecting location information based on real time communication or checking the flight visually by using a camera is effective. Visual checking with a camera is needed to spray fertilizers or agricultural chemicals with pinpoint accuracy. As this type of communication is made unstable with low power Wi-Fi, electric waves from the mobile electric waves are indispensable.

But according to the Radio Act (Act No. 131, 1950), a land mobile station is defined as a "radio station that functions while in motion on the ground or while motionless in an unspecific spot" and a drone is not certified as such.

In order for MIC and mobile operators to grasp the number of mobile terminals available for drones, some test stations for practical operation are operated, but the Minister's permission is needed each time they are to be used, which prevents the promotion of drone use.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Based on the results of the verification tests conducted during FY2018, MIC shall revise, in order to expand the use of the mobile electric waves by drones, the system during FY 2020 at the latest so that users will be able to apply for the permission of mobile phone companies to fly a drone via the Internet.
- b Based on the results of the verification tests, MIC shall devise a new mechanism to facilitate the use of cellular radio waves by drones through simplified procedures, including by making MIC the single window for the license for a test station for practical operation on the condition that mobile phone companies will be able to grasp the number of the mobile terminals in use, with an aim to make the procedure for the use of the mobile electric waves by drones flying at a low altitude as simple as mobile phones used on the ground.
- c Even during the period before the introduction of the new system, the use of the mobile electric waves shall be promoted, for example, by shortening the period from application to the issuance of a license including the period for procedures by mobile phone companies down to one month or below in principle.
- d In order to make it easier for agricultural drones to use the mobile electric waves, a forum consisting of MIC, MAFF, and concerned companies and farmers etc. shall be established to have regular discussions on the ways of the practical station system and the operation of the system of test stations for practical operation and other relevant matters.

D. Efforts for the spread of state-of-the-art agricultural drones

[Implemented]

**<Basic Stance>**

It is extremely important to introduce drone-related innovation in agriculture and the role the government plays for that is significant. In order to promote data-based advanced agriculture, it is necessary to promote strongly and intensively on multirotor drones capable of highly stable flight and the following reforms should be undertaken.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a A comprehensive plan for introducing agricultural drones that contains the factors below shall be formulated under the initiative of MAFF.
  - Numerical target for the number of state-of-the-art drone units to be introduced
  - Numerical target for the number of local briefing sessions for promoting the introduction
  - Numerical target for the number of agricultural chemicals that can be virtually regarded

as agricultural chemicals for drones

- Framework for sharing of information on overhaul of regulations for accelerating the spread of agricultural drones and advanced technologies
- b In order to accelerate the spread of agricultural drones with private operators' needs in mind, MAFF shall launch a private-public council in cooperation with METI. For state-of-the-art drones, a prefectural council based on the Technical Guidance Guideline shall be abolished. When a regional organization is needed for promoting drones, a new organization shall be launched under the private-public council.

(2) Revision of regulations hindering the use of advanced agricultural devices and snowplows

[a: Implemented; b-f: Conclusions to be drawn and measures to be implemented during FY2019;  
g, h: Conclusions to be drawn during FY2019 and to be implemented without delay as soon as  
[conclusions are drawn]

**<Basic Stance>**

While farm land is being consolidated with an aim to turn agriculture into a growth sector, it is desirable from the viewpoint of increasing agricultural productivity that farmers can drive their agrimotors fitted with or hauling agricultural machines from one area of farm land to another without the need for detaching or attaching operations. With respect to farm products to be provided at Tokyo Olympic sites in 2020, it is necessary to obtain GAP Certification and other necessary certifications, and farmers supplying such farm products will be required to satisfy the requirements of relevant laws and regulations. Therefore, in connection with the use of agrimotors, it urgently needed to develop a framework for allowing farmers to drive their agrimotors without violating laws and regulations including the Road Transport Vehicle Act (Act No. 185 of 1951), the Road Act (Act No. 180 of 1952) and the Road Traffic Act (Act No. 105 of 1960), but on the condition that safety shall be maintained.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MLIT and MAFF shall clarify specific requirements for agrimotors to drive on public roads with an agricultural machine or snowplows fitted in compliance with the Road Transport Vehicle Act, such as the provision of a lighting device or any other alternative device and the speeds of those vehicles not satisfying the stability requirement under the current Act limited to 15km per hour or below. Then, they shall clarify and communicate to every concerned party including regional transport bureaus their stance that any vehicle satisfying those requirements may drive on public roads in compliance with the Road Transport Vehicle Act irrespective of its width.
- b As for vehicles required to drive at 15km per hour or below as mentioned in Paragraph (a) above, MLIT and MAFF shall develop a model formula to calculate the stability of those vehicles when they are fitted with an agricultural machine or snowplows. Then, they shall gradually identify agrimotors deemed to satisfy the stability requirement according to the said model formula and, therefore, be allowed to drive at speeds higher than 15km per hour when fitted with an agricultural machine or snowplows, and shall

communicate to every concerned party including regional transport bureaus their stance that those agrimotors may drive on public roads under the Road Transport Vehicle Act.

- c MLIT shall communicate, in cooperation with MAFF, to every concerned party including agricultural organizations that in applying for a special vehicle traffic permit with respect to an agrimotor falling under the definition of a special vehicle under the Road Act when fitted with an agricultural machine or snowplows, it is not required to submit the inspection certificate and that applying for the permit with the national authority will lead to the acquisition of permits from prefectural and municipal governments at the same time. If any inquiry is made by persons intending to make such application, MLIT shall support them in making the applications, and upon receipt of applications, it shall issue the permit as soon as possible.
- d MLIT, MAFF and the National Police Agency shall examine the Road Transport Vehicle Act, the Road Traffic Law and other relevant laws to identify requirements preventing agrimotors fitted with an agricultural machine or snowplow from driving on public roads. Then, they shall relax conventional requirements such as the provision of a braking device on a trailed agricultural machine or snowplow by introducing the speed limit requirement and other measures, and, at the same time, clarify necessary requirements. It shall be communicated to every road administrator that any vehicle with a special vehicle traffic permit under the Road Act may drive on any road within the meaning of the Road Act. Should a new problem in connection with application procedures arise with respect to a vehicle falling under the definition of special vehicle due to its weight exceeding the specified maximum weight, remedial measures shall be considered.
- e MAFF shall communicate to every farm road administrator that no special permit from a farm road administrator is required under the current system in order for an agrimotor trailing an agricultural machine or snowplow to drive on farm roads and that it is desirable that the said current operation be maintained.
- f In order to facilitate the acquisition of a large-sized special motor vehicle license and a trailer license required to drive an agrimotor trailing an agricultural machine or snowplow on roads, the National Police Agency and MAFF shall take necessary measures, by taking the circumstances of respective regions, including the provision of human resources that may help increase the opportunities of training and examinations, into consideration.
- g The National Police Agency shall introduce necessary measures including relaxation, with respect to agrimotors, of the maximum load weight requirement of 500kg applicable to small-sized special motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Law, on the condition that MAFF shall identify appropriate load weights to ensure the safety of agricultural machinery.
- h In addition to Paragraphs (a) through (g), in view of the anticipated increase in the size of agricultural machines and snowplows, MLIT, MAFF and the National Police Agency shall identify regulations preventing agrimotors trailing such agricultural machine or snowplow from driving on public roads, and shall revise the regulations as necessary on

the condition that the safety will be secured.

- (3) Challenges in promoting the entry of young people into the agricultural industry  
[a: Discussed and a conclusion is to be drawn during FY2019, and to be implemented in FY2020; b, c: To be implemented during FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

In order to turn agriculture into a growth sector, it is important to develop a mechanism to facilitate people, including young people, to enter into the agricultural sector and to eliminate barriers preventing those potential farmers from growing their businesses. Meanwhile, with an aim to facilitate the construction of agricultural facilities including processing factories and farmers' markets in connection with the sixth industrialization of agriculture by farmers, it is necessary to survey how relevant laws and regulations are operated by prefectural and municipal governments.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a The financial support system for potential farmers shall be reviewed. Necessary revision shall be made in order to ensure support will be provided fairly without regard to whether or not potential farmers have received training at private organizations.
- b Issues and needs shall be identified in order to facilitate farmers including young people starting a business in the agricultural sector to procure necessary financial resources as they grow their businesses.
- c In order to facilitate the construction of agricultural facilities necessary to operate farming businesses, issues shall be identified in connection with land use for agricultural facilities including conversion into farm land, researches into the actual situations surrounding such land use shall be established, and, if necessary, revisions shall be discussed after those researches.

- (4) Steadily pushing ahead with agricultural cooperative reforms

[To be implemented on an ongoing basis in FY2019 and onwards]

**<Basic Stance>**

As for the agricultural cooperative reforms, since the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan of June, 2014 mentioned “Reassessing Agricultural Cooperatives” and the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan of June, 2015 mentioned “reliably carrying out agricultural cooperative reforms”, certain progress has been seen due to self-reform efforts by cooperatives encouraged during the “agricultural cooperative reform intensive promotion period” until the end of May, 2019.

However, there still remain issues to be tackled including the improvement of farmers' income, further reduction in material prices and healthy sustainability of the credit business.

Even after the agricultural cooperative reform intensive promotion period, the reform of Zen-Noh, the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations remains an important issue to be solved in order to promote reforms in the areas of the procurements

of production materials and the distribution and processing of agricultural products that were identified by the “The Policy Package for Enhancing Competitiveness of Japan’s Agriculture” (adopted on November 29, 2016 by the Headquarters on Creating Dynamism in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Industries and Local Communities). On the other hand, at the level of regional agricultural cooperatives, it is strongly expected that further progress of their self-reform efforts will be promoted.

#### <Items to be Implemented>

Even after the agricultural cooperative reform intensive promotion period, further efforts for self-reform shall be encouraged with the progress monitored.

#### (5) Revision of regulations under the Fertilizer Regulation Act

##### A. Official Specifications

[a: To be implemented in 2019; b: To be implemented in 2021]

#### <Basic Stance>

Under the Fertilizer Regulation Act (Act No. 127 of 1950), fertilizers are roughly categorized into “special fertilizers” such as rice bran and compost and “normal fertilizers” other than special fertilizers. Manufacturing of special fertilizers requires notification to prefectural governors only. But as for normal fertilizers, registration is required for each fertilizer brand and there are “official specifications” that specify the minimum amount of major components that the fertilizer must contain, the maximum amount of components harmful to plants that the fertilizer is permitted to contain and other information.

The current official specifications system does not properly reflect the diversifying needs of farmers in accordance with soil environments or advances in fertilizer production technology. In addition, since the fertilizer registrations have accumulated, there exist a large number of specifications compared to other countries. Also, the maximum amount of components harmful to plants is specified for each type of fertilizer. Thus, criticism has been heard about the complexity of the system.

Fertilizers made from industrial by-products such as animal manure and amino acid fermentation residues are inexpensive and useful for soil improvement. Although the use of such fertilizers is also desirable to promote resource circulations, the minimum amount of major components are set at high levels under the official specifications system, which has prevented the use of some industrial by-products.

As seen above, the current official specifications system has worked to prevent fertilizer manufacturers’ utilizing unused resources and the creative and flexible product development.

As the utilization of industrial by-products expands, securing safety becomes more important. Therefore, it will be important to prepare a list of available fertilizer ingredient materials and to specify harmful ingredients in a clear manner.

#### <Items to be Implemented>

a Detailed analysis of the regulations on the official specifications system in other

countries;

- b In order to revise the current official specifications into a more easy-to-understand list, the types of normal fertilizer shall be consolidated and simplified into fewer categories while ensuring the quality and safety of fertilizers, by introducing the following measures:
- Relaxation of minimum amount requirements concerning the major components of fertilizers made by mixing several fertilizers and fertilizers made from animal and/or plant ingredients and from industrial by-products;
  - Increasing the number of materials available for by-product fertilizers; and
  - Consolidation of the maximum amount requirements for harmful components.

## B. Mixing of fertilizers

[Discussion to be started in the first half of 2019 and to be implemented in 2021]

### <Basic Stance>

In order to cope with decreasing soil fertility and deteriorating nutritional balance in soil, farmers are increasingly needing fertilizers and soil improvement materials to enrich soils with compost and to apply fertilizers more precisely based on soil analysis results. On the other hand, due to the aging agricultural workforce, it is important to reduce the number of fertilizer applications by mixing several fertilizers and adding soil improvement materials. However, under the current Fertilizer Regulation Act, it is prohibited in principle except for some exemptions to mix normal fertilizers and special fertilizers or add soil improvement materials.

Although the mixing of normal fertilizers and compost was partly permitted in 2012 and new specification (“mixed compost compound fertilizer”) was introduced, the use of cattle manure, the most promising ingredient material among other domestic animal wastes, is still rather restricted.

On the other hand, since fertilizer manufacturers are allowed to mix a wide range of fertilizers if based on entrustment by farmers (“combining fertilizers based on entrustment by fertilizer users”), there are no strong grounds for not allowing the mixing of normal fertilizers and special fertilizers including those made from cattle manure and the mixing of normal fertilizers and soil improvement materials.

### <Items to be Implemented>

Mixing of normal fertilizers and special fertilizers and mixing of normal fertilizers and soil improvement materials shall be permitted in principle. Those specified not to be mixed from the viewpoint of ensuring the quality and safety of fertilizers shall be limited to the minimum.

## C. Guaranteed component amount

[To be implemented in 2020]

### <Basic Stance>

Fertilizer manufacturers are required to guarantee that a normal fertilizer contains the

“guaranteed component amount” of major components. The tolerance for this guaranteed amount during the assay is set at a more severe level than in other developed countries.

As for guaranteed component amounts for designated combined fertilizers (those produced by mixing registered normal fertilizers only), the actual measurement of major components contained in a final product is not used, but “an amount calculated by adding the guaranteed component amounts of normal fertilizers to be mixed” is used. Accordingly, final products tend to contain an excessive amount of major components, increasing the cost of those products. Since it is difficult for farmers to figure out the amount of major components they apply correctly, for example, The agricultural products produced by specific cultivation method with reduced pesticides and chemical fertilizer may contain higher amount of nitrogen components coming from chemical fertilizers than the prescribed criteria.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Tolerances for guaranteed component amounts shall be revised to more lenient levels as much as possible by referring to those adopted in other countries;
- b As for designated combined fertilizers, it shall be made possible to use the actual measurement of major components contained in a final product instead of the aggregation of the guaranteed component amounts of fertilizers used as ingredient in order for the calculation of the guaranteed component amounts under the current notification system.

D. Assurance Labels

[a, c: To be implemented in 2020; b: Discussion to be started in the first half of 2019, conclusions on directionality to be drawn in the first half of 2020, and to be implemented in the first half of 2021]

**<Basic Stance>**

Since it is difficult to see the effect and safety of fertilizers from their appearance, it is required to attach an “assurance label” indicating the fertilizer type, guaranteed component amount, weight, ingredients and other information on each product.

However, since the label is required to contain detailed information other than major components, three types of parenthesized indication with respect to ingredient information are specified, and the size of the indication is designated in detail, it has been criticized that the assurance label system is too complex and difficult for farmers to use. In addition, since ingredients are required to be indicated in the order of weight and with detailed indication categories, it would be necessary to reprint the package or prepare a new assurance label every time any change in the weight of ingredients occurs. This has been a diseconomy factor.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Detailed indication size requirements shall be revised to allow a smaller size indication.
- b Ingredient categories shall be more roughly classified. As for parenthesized ingredient

information, the labeling method including ingredients indicated in the order of their weight shall be reviewed to simplify labeling compliance. Along with such revision, it shall be made possible to confirm information on the website through the use of two-dimensional codes in lieu of labels, based on the idea that the revision of the assurance label system is part of the Smart Agriculture strategy.

- c In addition, any other information currently required to be included in an assurance label shall be reviewed in terms of necessity and revision shall be introduced if necessary considering the opinions of farmers and fertilizer manufacturers and examining the situations in other countries.

#### E. Registration and notification procedures and their operation

[a: To be implemented in the first half of 2021; b: To be implemented in the first half of 2020;  
c, d: To be implemented in 2019; e: To be implemented in 2021]

##### **<Basic Stance>**

Under the current system, it is necessary to give the company address and other information that can be known from its corporate number upon every application for registration of a fertilizer. Accordingly, it takes time and effort.

Further, it is necessary to notify any change of storage location for each fertilizer brand. It has also been directed that such applications should be filed with the Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center (hereinafter referred to as “FAMIC”) competent in the place of the head office of a manufacturer but not in the place of the manufacturing plant. Such operations are not in line with the actual situations of manufacturers.

In addition, what kind of materials may be available as ingredients for fertilizers have been inconsistently decided by respective FAMICs because such matter has been left to the discretion of FAMIC officers working on the front line.

On the other hand, in response to the increase in the number of by-products that can be used as fertilizer ingredients, a new mechanism is currently under consideration in order to ensure fertilizer manufacturers to put strict manufacturing process control including the maintenance of books for ingredient materials and periodic heavy metal analysis in place.

##### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Registration and notification procedures shall be rationalized by eliminating the requirement that upon every application the company address and other information that can be known from its corporate number should be provided and by digitizing the procedures.
- b Notification of storage location change for each fertilizer brand shall be made unnecessary, and it shall be made possible for manufacturers to make notification of the change for several fertilizers simultaneously.
- c It shall be put in place and communicated to all concerned parties that applications for registration may be filed with FAMIC competent in the place of a manufacturing plant.
- d In order to understand the actual operation of FAMIC and improvements necessary for the uniform operation, anonymous questionnaire survey shall be conducted on fertilizer

manufacturers and the results shall be published and used to develop measures for ensuring the uniform operation including revision to the conventional guidelines and the issuance of new ones.

- e The new mechanism for ensuring strict manufacturing process control by fertilizer manufacturers shall not be excessively restrictive in comparison with similar regulations of other countries and with regulations other than those concerning fertilizers, ensuring that ingredient materials and their procurement channels will be recorded to enable smooth recall if necessary.

#### F. Title of the Act

[To be implemented in the first half of 2020]

##### **<Basic Stance>**

The Fertilizer Regulation Act has the word “clampdown” in its Japanese title reflecting the situations at the time when the Act was enacted in 1950. The focus was placed on the prohibition of hazardous materials and the elimination of malicious businesses. However, fertilizers are used to grow crops and have completely different characteristics than hazardous substances and materials such as drugs or gunpowder. In order to improve agricultural productivity, constant product development efforts are required. Therefore, the title with “clampdown” must not cause a misunderstanding that fertilizers are hazardous and dangerous nor reduce manufacturers’ motivation to develop new products or creativity.

The overall contents of the Act including “official specifications” shall be reviewed based on the above consideration. Then, discussions shall be made on the title including potential revision in order to have the title appropriately reflect new system.

##### **<Items to be Implemented>**

In response to the drastic review of the contents of the Act, discussions on the title including potential revision shall be made in order to have the title appropriately reflect new system.

#### (6) Revision of regulations concerning livestock barns

[a: Discussion initiated during FY2019 and a conclusion to be drawn by the first half of FY2020;  
b: To be implemented in FY2021]

##### **<Basic Stance>**

In the livestock industry, under the “Program to Enhance the Competitiveness of Agriculture” (adopted on November 29, 2016 by the Headquarters on Creating Dynamism in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Industries and Local Communities), efforts have been made to strengthen the production basis in order to enhance the income earning power of respective regions. Especially in the area of dairy farming, the compensation price system was reviewed to overcome such situations as an increasing number of people choosing to leave the dairy farming industry, decrease in the number of cows and the declining trend of milk production continuing for twenty years and to bring the dairy farming industry to a growth path including expansion into overseas markets.

At present, livestock barns used to operate dairy farming business (ranches, milking facilities, compost depots) are required under the Building Standard Law (LawNo. 201 of 1950) to satisfy the building standards in order to ensure the safety of the building structure. Those standards are based on the following factors: the frequency of stay of people at the facilities is low; and the facilities are located away from cities and towns. However, further relaxation is being requested. Meanwhile, the reduction in construction costs of livestock barns is another important issue to be tackled to turn the industry into a growth sector.

Major changes have been seen in the livestock industry including the introduction of labor-saving machinery such as milking robots. In response to these changes, the efficiency of breeding management should be improved while introducing appropriate safety measures to suit the actual use of livestock barns by farmers and, at the same time, to lower the construction costs of livestock barns.

Meanwhile, in order to enhance the competitive strength of our livestock industry that has been facing international competition since the TPP11 and Japan-EU EPA entered into force, it is urgently needed to introduce measures contributory to turning our livestock industry into a growth sector.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MAFF shall establish, in cooperation with MLIT, a committee to discuss new safety measures for livestock barns used to operate dairy farming business and constructed away from cities and towns, including the formulation of safety standards for those facilities and the establishment of a mechanism for implementing the standards taking into consideration how those facilities are actually used by farmers. The committee shall investigate into how livestock barns are actually used, factors conductive to high construction costs, and similar regulations of other countries. Based on the investigation, the committee shall discuss a potential special law for exempting livestock barns from the application of the Building Standard Law and reach a certain conclusion.
- b Based on the results of the discussion of (a), a necessary bill shall be drafted.

#### (7) Revision of regulations concerning the location of crop-cultivating facilities

[a, b: To be implemented promptly during FY2019;  
c: To be implemented during FY2019,]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

As technological innovation advances, data-based agriculture to grow crops under an environment where light and temperature is carefully controlled is expected to add value to agricultural products and help improve the productivity of agriculture.

Among those technologies, crop cultivating facilities such as a so-called plant factory is in principle treated as a “manufacturing plant” in connection with Article 48 of the Building Standard Law since its air conditioning system and irrigation system necessary for growing and controlling the quality of farm products are deemed as a “motor” for a “factories using motors”. Meanwhile, from the viewpoint of the effective use of land, there are urgent needs to build such crop cultivating facilities on land under elevated railroad

tracks or on sites of old commercial facilities.

Following the issuance of a special permit (in accordance with the proviso of Paragraph 1 through Paragraph 14 of Article 48 of the said Law) to construct a crop cultivating facility under elevated railroad tracks by the Amagasaki municipal government in response to the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan of June, 2018, MLIT has issued a notice entitled “the provision of information about cases of special permits under Article 48 of the Building Standard Law granted to plant factories”(Notification dated March 28, 2019 of Director, Urban Building Division, Housing Bureau, MLIT) and clarified their stance that “the construction of such facility under elevated railroad tracks where a certain volume of noise and vibration are already felt” is “considered to have a relatively small influence on the surrounding environment” as far as noise and vibration are concerned.

In addition to this, the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan says that MLIT shall “examine and sort out new agricultural production facilities-related permission concepts as well as the facility’s definition in line with actual conditions, and give the Designated Administrative Agency (including mayors of municipal governments according to Item 35, Paragraph 1, Article 2 of the said Law; hereinafter in this Paragraph the same shall apply) such information as technical advices”. Currently examinations toward the implementation are under way.

On the other hand, as for the conversion of a conventional facility into a crop cultivating facility, the Sendai municipal government has concluded that “the potential crop cultivating facility does not fall under the definition of “factories using motors” because the air conditioning system is similar to that used in an ordinary office. In view of increasing needs to change old commercial facilities into crop cultivating facilities from the viewpoint of the efficient use of land, the development of rationale that will facilitate judgement by the Designated Administrative Agency has become an issue to be tackled.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

a Regarding the conversion of commercial facilities into crop cultivating facilities, by taking into consideration the cases where the Designated Administrative Agency has judged that the potential crop cultivating facilities did not fall under the definition of a “factories using motors” and based on the notice entitled “the provision of information about cases of special permits under Article 48 of the Building Standard Law issued for plant factories”, technical advice shall be issued and communicated to every concerned party in order to clarify the following:

- When a crop cultivating facility is to be converted from part of an office building, the cases where the potential crop cultivating facility was judged as not falling under the definition of a “factories using motors” when the said conversion is not likely to affect the surrounding environment since the noise level of the air conditioning system is similar to that of the system used in an ordinary office room and the water circulation pump is low-output and low-noise should be taken into consideration; and
- A special permit may be issued when the level of noise and vibration from the air conditioning system, the irrigation system and other equipment used by the facility is

low and the surrounding traffic environment will not be affected by traffic expected to be generated from the facility.

- b Along with the implementation of the measures of (a), the Japan Conference of Building Administration shall be encouraged to have discussions on when to issue permits for the conversion of existing facilities into crop cultivating facilities and when to treat facilities as factories.
- c In order to communicate the results of (b) to every concerned party, technical advice shall be issued.

## 2. Fisheries sector

While the global seafood consumption is increasing greatly, it is essential in order to turn our fishing industry into a growth sector to stimulate demand for value-added seafood produced in Japan and expand the export. The “Act Amending and Revising Part of the Fisheries Act and Other Relevant Laws and Regulations” (Act No. 95 of FY2018) adopted in December of last year intends to establish a system for the management of fisheries resources based on scientific findings, review the fishery permit system for increased productivity, and revise the existing system for use of sea level to promote the growth of aquaculture and coastal fisheries. Accordingly, the Act deserves some degree of appreciation since it is to drastically reform the fisheries policy of this country.

Nonetheless, in order to achieve the purpose of the reform, it is important for the national authority to develop some clear-cut criteria to be used as a manual by people on the front line of the fishing industry so that the amended Fisheries Act (Act No.267 of 1949; hereinafter referred to as the “Amended Fisheries Act”) and other relevant regulations will be operated in a transparent manner based on the actual situations of respective regions.

At the same time, from the viewpoint of turning the fishing industry into a growth sector, discussions should be initiated promptly in order to improve the transparency of the distribution channels of marine products and fishery production materials and to review unreasonable standards and regulations.

Based on the above, we propose the following regulatory reform areas to be tackled in the coming years.

### (1) Operation of the Amended Fisheries Act

- A. Clarification of responsibilities of the national government and prefectural governments  
[To be implemented in FY2020]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

Under Article 6 of the Amended Fisheries Act, it is stipulated that the national government and prefectural governments are “responsible to implement appropriate conservation measures and control over our aquatic resources and to introduce necessary measures to help ensure the prevention and solution of disputes concerning the use of fishing fields”. The foregoing is not intending that the national government and prefectural governments will make underhanded coordination in advance to avoid disputes between potential fishery operators and existing fishery operators but will require the governments to solve disputes in a fair manner in compliance with some objective criteria.

It is required to operate the Amended Fisheries Act based on the above understanding.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

A mechanism for solving disputes shall be developed to ensure fair resolution based on transparent and objective criteria and not through underhanded prior coordination by the national government and prefectural governments.

### B. Development of a roadmap toward resource recovery

- [To be implemented in a sequential manner in FY2020 onwards]

### **<Basic Stance>**

In order to recover aquatic resources, it is needless to say that the total allowable catch and specific fishing quota should be determined, and for effective clear scheduling toward resource recovery for each type of fish, study on practical measures for resource recovery and monitoring of the progress toward resource recovery is needed.

Considering that the goal is to recover aquatic resources to “Target reference point” which represents the maximum sustainable yields for respective fish types, measures for the recovery of aquatic resources as mentioned above should target not only fish types whose resources are below their “Limit reference point” but also those below their “Target reference point”.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

Schedules for resource recovery and road maps defining specific actions to be taken for that purpose shall be formulated for each type of fish. The said road maps shall be prepared for all fish types whose resource levels are below their “Target reference point”.

### C. Promotion of licensed fisheries with highly productivity

[To be implemented in FY2020]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

Under the Amended Fisheries Act, productivity is the main criterion for granting a license for licensed fisheries and a permit for a fishery start-up, and, therefore, this criterion should be transparent and clear. In clarifying the criterion, the following should be taken into consideration: fish catches or fishery yields vary according to the type of licensed fisheries and fish type, and licensed fisheries tend to yield relatively large catches and, therefore, can exert greater impact on resource management as compared to other types of fisheries.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a The criterion for judging “productivity enough to operate a fishery business properly”, a condition for granting the license or approving a fishery start-up shall be clearly defined for each fishery type and fish type.
- b Under the Amended Fisheries Act, it is stipulated that the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries “may order a person licensed to operate fisheries to install a satellite-based ship positioning transmitter and/or any other electronic equipment specified by the MAFF ordinance on a licensed ship and to maintain the operation of the said electronic equipment for the duration of the operation or the voyage of the ship, to the extent that those measures are vital for the implementation of any action determined under an international framework or for any other regulation purpose”. In order for the regulation of fisheries, it is required, among other measures, to expedite catch reporting and improve reporting accuracy. Also from the viewpoint of alleviating burdens on fishery operators, it would be desirable to computerize the catch reporting.

Therefore, except for cases where the installment of electronic equipment is not inappropriate, in principle, all licensed fishery operators shall be obligated to file catch reports electronically and install VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) on their vessels.

- D. Establishment of a mechanism for maximizing the use of sea areas and improvement of transparency of the fishery right system operation

[a-c, e: To be implemented in FY2020; d: To be implemented in FY2020 onwards continuously]

**<Basic Stance>**

The yield of fishing-right-based fisheries including aquafarming is also on a gradual declining trend as seen in the overall fisheries yield. In order for the sustainability of fishing-right-based fisheries, it is necessary to ensure the appropriate and effective use of fishing fields. Therefore, it is required to develop an enabling environment for both motivated and competent potential fishery operators requesting access to fishing rights and existing fishery operators striving for improved productivity.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MAFF shall develop and publish a fishing field map illustrating the current allocation of fishing rights in order to promote the effective use of fishing fields.
- b In order to facilitate fishery operators to take initiative in promoting the effective use of fishing fields, some clearer criteria shall be developed and issued as technical advice to allow the heads of prefectural governments to make fair and equitable judgement on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the use of a fishing field. Especially in order to identify cases where “part of a fishing field is not utilized without rational reason”, specific examples falling under the definition shall be communicated widely.
- c In connection with the operation of the fishing right system, the heads of prefectural governments shall introduce necessary measures so that the entry of potential fishery operators will not be restricted unfairly based on the careful review of the opinions of relevant stakeholders and the Sea-Area Fisheries Adjustment Committees.
- d In addition to the survey for the development of the fishing field map mentioned in (a), licensing situation surveys shall be conducted every five years. In addition, further surveys shall be carried out and the results shall be published on the following: fishing fields newly designated and those abolished as well as reasons for the designation and abolition; and the status of licenses allocated to existing fishery operators and those granted to potential fishery operators. Based on those surveys, KPIs on fishing field use shall be set and appropriate measures shall be introduced.
- e Concerned government ministries and prefectural governments shall work for the early issuance of new licenses for offshore district fishing rights through coordination with fishery operators and concerned organizations.

- E. Improving compliance and governance toward increased income for fishery operators  
[Discussion started during FY2019 and to be implemented in FY2020]

### **<Basic Stance>**

The recent amendment to the Act has clarified the public roles of Fisheries Cooperative to manage inshore fishing fields and help improve income for fishery operators. In order to fulfill these public roles, Fisheries Cooperatives are required to be highly transparent organizations in terms of both compliance and governance.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Surveys shall be conducted and the truth shall be ferreted out on the financial conditions of Fisheries Cooperative including the details of all income earned (including fishing field use fees, cooperation money), the details of expenditures, and the number of executives and staff. Based on the survey, KPIs on the management of Fisheries Cooperative shall be set and appropriate measures shall be introduced.
- b In the survey of (a), as for those Fisheries Cooperative found to be violating the Act on Prohibition of Private Monopolization and Maintenance of Fair Trade (Act No. 54 of 1947; hereinafter referred to as the “Antitrust Act”), corrective measures shall be taken in cooperation with the Fair Trade Commission and, if necessary, measures under the Fishery Cooperatives Act (Act No. 242 of 1948) shall be introduced.
- c Surveys shall be conducted and the results shall be published about the screening process for membership of Fisheries Cooperative. Based on the survey, clear guidelines including requirement to use objective data in such screening procedures shall be issued to ensure the proper operation, and, if necessary, measures under the Fishery Cooperatives Act shall be introduced.

## (2) Overhaul on the distribution of marine products and fishery production materials

[a through c: Implemented during FY2019; d, e: Discussed and a conclusion drawn during FY2019 and to be implemented in the first quarter of FY2020]

### **<Basic Stance>**

In connection with the distribution of marine products and fishery production materials, the following cases that may violate the Antitrust Act have been pointed out: existing distributors charge fishery operators and new distributors exorbitant fees (“protection money”) and; fish bait wholesalers have united themselves to control the sales channels and market prices of hatchery fish for their benefit in return for shouldering the bait costs that account for the majority of the cost burdens in the aquaculture business. It is necessary to conduct a survey on those situations and to introduce specific corrective measures. Meanwhile, as domestic marine products increase their added value, it will be necessary to introduce measures to eliminate IUU (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated) fisheries seen in our country and other countries.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Surveys shall be conducted on the actual situations surrounding the distribution of marine products and fishery production materials.
- b In order to prevent improper trades, “guidelines for ensuring proper trades” shall be

- formulated, or distributors and other relevant parties shall be urged to formulate their own “voluntary action plan for proper trades”.
- c Any cases found to be violating the Antitrust Act as a result of the surveys of (a), shall be rectified in cooperation with the Fair Trade Commission.
  - d In order to facilitate financing for Fish Farming businesses, discussions shall be immediately started on the establishment on the following potential business models contributory to stabilizing the management of farmers: the establishment of a financial system for providing loans to aquaculture business operators based on the proper assessment of their businesses so that they can obtain funds to pay for fish baits which is a cost element accounting for the majority of their business expenditures, aquaculture businesses entrusted from consumers and so on .
  - e Necessary actions shall be introduced in order for the establishment of some Catch Certificate Scheme on which the traceability of imported marine products will be based.

(3) Review of standard on the boarding of maritime officers

[To be concluded and implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

The Act on Ships' Officers and Small Boats' Operators (Act No. 149, 1951) states that medium-scale fishing vessels (20t or more in gross tonnage and less than 24m in length) must be boarded by one Maritime Officer (navigation) and, moreover, one Maritime Officer (engineering). On the other hand, the boarding requirement for small-scale fishing vessels (less than 20t in gross tonnage) is one boat's operator. In an era where Maritime Officers are in short supply, the difference in the boarding standard that adopts the gross tonnage of 20t as the threshold has led to a concentration of coastal fishing vessels in operation in the less than 20t range, hampering the development of fisheries based on expansion in the size of fishing vessels.

In particular, regarding the duties concerning the engine of medium-scale fishing vessels operating in the adjacent waters (within 100 nautical miles) , which operation lasts up to 10 days, an investigation was conducted on duties pertaining to engine maintenance, structure of and troubles associated with the engine equipped on fishing vessels and steps taken at the time of an accident. It was found that the actual duties on these medium-scale fishing vessels were not much different from those on small-scale fishing vessels. This means that the engineering duties on medium-scale fishing vessels can be handled by one boat's operator, which is stipulated for small-scale fishing vessels. The current boarding standard on maritime officers is inconsistent with the actual conditions and should therefore be reviewed.

**<Items to be implemented>**

- a The definition of small boats (small-scale vessels) under the Act on Ships' Officers and Small Boats' Operators shall be reviewed and the law shall be amended, following an examination of the measures, etc. that would be required based on the premise of safety assurance, to enable the navigation of medium-scale vessels (20t or more in gross

- tonnage and less than 24m in length) operating in the adjacent waters (within 100 nautical miles) (hereinafter referred to as the “medium-scale fishing vessels in the adjacent waters”) with one boat’s operator on board.
- b An exception to the boarding standard under the provisions of paragraph 1, Article 20 of the Act on Ships’ Officers and Small Boats’ Operators shall be applied to medium-scale fishing vessels in the adjacent waters until the act amendment in (a) is enforced, in which case the boarding requirement of Maritime Officers (engineering) may be omitted, based on the premise of safety assurance, when certain requirements are met, including the boarding of persons who have received the prescribed lectures on engineering, receiving support from a consort and so on.
  - c Medium-scale fishing vessels in the adjacent waters that prefer to have Maritime Officers on board instead of boat’s operators even after the enforcement of the act amendment in (a) shall be allowed to follow the previous boarding standard, in which case the vessels shall be allowed to omit the boarding of Marine Officers (engineering), provided that the vessels are boarded by persons who have received the prescribed lectures on engineering or they receive support from a consort.

(4) Effort to accelerate measures against fish disease

[a: To be implemented in FY2019; b: To be examined and concluded in FY2019 and implemented in FY2020; c: To be implemented in FY2019; d-f: To be implemented in FY2020; g: To be implemented in FY2019; h: To be implemented sequentially after FY2020; i: To be implemented in FY2019; j: To be implemented continuously after FY2021]

**<Basic Stance>**

Since diseases tend to spread in a shorter time period in aquaculture business than in the livestock industry, it is essential that medication and other steps are taken as soon as possible to prevent disease proliferation.

The standards on pharmaceuticals that can be used on fish, dosage and medication method are established based on the existing Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (Act No. 145, 1960, hereinafter referred to as “the Medical Product Safety Law”). However, efforts to share the information on measures against fish disease have not been launched and the standards have not been updated. As such, it is often difficult to contain the spread of fish disease with the current standards due in part to the medication methods that do not accommodate the actual needs and the limited number of fish types to which pharmaceuticals can be administered.

On the other hand, the system at present is ill-equipped to launch a prompt response due to a shortage of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases, due to a lack of an infrastructure of the veterinarian occupation to combat fish disease, despite the Act’s stipulation that veterinarians may give medical treatment outside the scope of such standards (exceptional use) under the same Act provided that it is regarded as the measure

against unknown illness and veterinarians judge otherwise due to treatment or prevention of illness of the target animals .

To promote aquaculture business as a growth industry, efforts to implement improved and prompt measures to combat fish disease are essential. As the prerequisite, to establish the business infrastructure for aquaculture industry, human resources and networks to adequately implement measures against fish disease must be secured, and the safety of cultured fish as food must be ensured.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a An investigation of the condition of measures against fish disease shall be conducted, which includes the types of fish disease found in aquaculture business and their countermeasures, the role of veterinarians in the implementation of the said measures and fulfillment conditions of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases in each prefecture.
- b Based on the investigation in (a), the standards on the use of pharmaceuticals for animals as stipulated in the Medical Product Safety Law shall be reviewed to enable the implementation of measures against fish disease for each type of fish (including adult fish and juvenile fish) that were identified in the investigation.
- c To accelerate the measures against fish disease in exceptional uses, a system that facilitates veterinarians to promptly diagnose fish shall be developed based on the investigation in (a). This may include formulating a list of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases and sharing the list with fisheries research institutes in the respective prefecture to enable Fish Epidemic Prevention Officers at such institutes in the prefecture to promptly contact veterinarians in an acute situation that requires treatment by veterinarians.
- d In addition to (c), the definition of “primary care veterinarians” (such as having access to a veterinarian within a certain period of time), with which aquaculture businesses in the region can routinely consult, shall be clarified so that prompt measures against fish disease may be taken in all aquaculture regions and veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases would not be unevenly distributed. In addition, a system that enables veterinarians to promptly diagnose fish shall be developed, which may include securing multiple veterinarians for each aquaculture business and formulating a roster system and releasing such lists.
- e Numerical targets of the state to quantitatively expand the number of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases shall be established and announced. At the same time, efforts to increase the number of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases shall be undertaken by, for instance, encouraging veterinarians to utilize intern programs at fisheries research institutes and other such locations or to enroll in curricula on fish disease countermeasures provided by conventional veterinarians.
- f To secure high-quality veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases, the vision of online medical consultation befitting smart fisheries shall be examined and necessary measures shall be implemented, for instance, by developing a mechanism that

would enable online medical consultation by veterinarians.

- g To share information on measures against fish disease and carry out academic exchanges, a council comprising veterinarians, pharmaceutical manufacturers, fisheries research institutes, research institutions such as universities, aquaculture business, etc. shall be established.
- h The above council shall conduct an assessment to determine how the steps in (b) through (d) helped accelerate measures against fish disease.
- i To establish an infrastructure of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases in the veterinarian occupation, the council described in (g) shall promote examinations on the establishment of a trade association of veterinarians who have good knowledge of fish diseases.
- j When the assessment in (h) determines that measures against fish disease should be accelerated further, a review of the curricula for obtaining the veterinarian qualifications shall be started, and other additional measures to speed up the process shall be continuously examined, with an eye on the legal system on measures against fish disease in other countries, and the results shall be announced on the premise of ensuring the safety of cultured fish as food.

### 3. Medical care and long-term care sector

Japan is entering an unprecedented situation with fewer children and an aging society in the world. In FY2022, the so-called baby boom generation (born between 1947 and 1949) will begin to reach 75 years old, and Japan's social security-related expenditures are expected to increase at a rapid pace. On the other hand, the number of the generation financially supporting the nation's existing social security system will sharply decrease at a rate of one million every year.

With this backdrop, the public's anxiety and sense of crisis over the future have stymied consumption and investment, constituting one of the factors that hinder the growth of Japan's economy overall.

Given such conditions, all citizens of Japan assume the responsibility of reforming the nation's institutional structure so that medical care and long-term care services as represented by the universal healthcare system can be passed on to the next generation. There is no time to waste in this endeavor.

Based on the realization of the above challenges, the Medical Care and Long-term Care Working Group decided to tackle reforms based on three perspectives: (1) Autonomous efforts to promote health based on choices made by each citizen; (2) Improvement of the medical and long-term care provision system; and (3) Development of future-oriented medical and long-term care services.

First, regarding the “utilization of data in the medical care sector,” regulatory reform items were compiled after conducting broad discussions on topics that involve all three perspectives including the “development of an environment that enables individuals to utilize their own health checkup data,” “establishment of ‘standards’ for data utilization,” and “disclosure of big data on health, medical care and long-term care to the private sector.”

Also, the compiled regulatory reform items included: “improvement of patients’ access to pharmaceutical data” and “improvement of the operation of the system of foods with function claims” based on the perspective of (1) Autonomous efforts to promote health based on choices made by each citizen; “promotion of the dissemination of online medical care” based on the perspective of (2) Improvement of the medical and long-term care provision system; and “simplification of various procedures pertaining to R&D conducted by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development” and “attainment of flexible combinations of services covered and not covered by long-term care insurance” based on the perspective of (3) Development of future-oriented medical and long-term care services.

#### (1) Promotion of data utilization in the medical care sector

##### A. Development of an environment that enables individuals to utilize their own health checkup data

[To be examined in FY2019, concluded and implemented in the first half of FY2020]

##### **<Basic Stance>**

Since the answer as to whether the ownership of health checkup data rests with individuals is not explicitly provided in laws and regulations, the relevant parties (insured persons, insurers, employees, business enterprises, medical institutions, third-party service providers, etc.) should first reach an agreement on data utilization policies before laying out the explicit details on the handling of data in the contract. In particular, how to provide

individuals with health checkup information with the exception of data on “designated checkups” and how individuals could utilize the information should be examined so that they can embark on their own health management before they turn 40 and continue thereafter. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

**<Items to be implemented>**

- a The reasons why the health checkup data needs to be utilized and how it should be utilized shall be identified and announced.
- b Examples of contract clauses regarding data provision and utilization and factors to be considered when writing the clauses shall be indicated as a guideline or in other forms. Issues and potential points of contention in the contract shall be indicated according to the objective of data utilization and type of contract with reference to the opinions of the relevant parties including private service providers that could be the contracting party.

B. Establishment of “standards” for data utilization

[To be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2019. Sections pertaining to “PHR Service using Mynaportal” in (b) shall be examined in FY2019, concluded and implemented in the first half of FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

While the management of the history of medical treatment and health checkup data is important for medical care and disease prevention, data management should be implemented along a common data standard among medical institutions and insurers to enable their utilization. It is also important to store data electronically and not in paper form to enable transmission in the digital form.

Japan has been working to standardize the medical data representation format and storage/transmission technology based on the “Standard for healthcare information sector (MHLW standard)” (Director of Health Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Director-General for Policy Planning and Evaluation (responsible for statistics and information policy), MHLW, May 21, 2018) and “Guideline on safe management of medical information system, 5th edition” (MHLW, May 30, 2017). However, these efforts have not produced satisfactory results with the exception of health insurance claims and others. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Basic policies on standards in the medical sector shall be examined and released as soon as possible by respecting the private sector’s creativity and ingenuity with its sound motivation for technological innovation based on an awareness of interoperability(system characteristics that enable reciprocal linkage among different systems) in Japan and other countries. The objective is to enable medical institutions

and insurers across Japan to share medical data and put it to use in preventive care and medical innovation. At the same time, a management system that encompasses a division of roles between the public and private sectors shall be developed.

- b At present, plans that serve as a progress schedule of health data reform are underway to launch a “healthcare record sharing service” that connects medical institutions and pharmacies across Japan with patients’ medical information and “PHR services that utilize Mynaportal,” designed to provide citizens with information on health checkups and medicine. Prior to the launching of these services, the standard that would serve as the minimum requirement shall be examined in light of ongoing challenges by referring to the opinions of relevant parties including private service providers and pioneering cases in other countries. The results shall be announced as a guideline or in other forms.
- c To promote health data reforms, a preliminary reform plan for the guideline on the safety management of the current medical information system shall be formulated by gathering individual and concrete case examples and identifying the policies and points of attention regarding utilization in each case in light of technical trends such as advances in cloud technology.

C. Development of comprehensive environment for the provision of data-based optimum medical services

[To be examined in FY2019 and concluded in FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

With the progress of technological innovation, the provision of optimum services for the patient in and out of the residence city as well as the creation of advanced medicine are expected to accelerate even further. To turn these advances into reality, it is essential to develop an environment where various entities can exchange information in a cross-sectional manner based on collaboration in health, nursing care and other areas. In this process, the complexities that presently exist in medical areas in relation to the Act on the Protection of Personal Information would function as elements that hamper the creation of new services and business opportunities. Some argue that the legislation of a special act on the handling of personal information in medicine, or similar actions, is necessary to fundamentally resolve these issues. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

Examinations shall be started, and a conclusion drawn, on steps to develop a comprehensive environment for data utilization, with an eye on cost effectiveness, which includes a mechanism that enables citizens to obtain medical information by electronic means through measures such as: A “the development of an environment where individuals can utilize their health checkup data” and B “establishment of a ‘standard’ for data utilization.” Examples in other countries and industries shall be investigated for concrete cases that are believed to be in high demand among the public such as “sharing of patient information by medical institutions in critical care medicine,” “acquisition of a

second opinion” and “acquisition and management of individual health checkup data.” The objective is to promote data utilization in the medical field and appropriately link this with discussions on the system of the Act on the Protection of Personal Information in the future as necessary.

#### D. Standardization of medical terminology including disease names

[a: To begin examination in FY2019, concluded and implemented in FY2020; b: To begin examination in FY2019]

##### <Basic Stance>

Data standardization based on an international perspective is essential in statistical analysis including medical big data analysis. Regarding the disease name, which is a particularly important piece of information, it is important to have one disease name representation correspond to a disorder. In the past, however, physicians have used different disease name representations for the same disorder in clinical charts on paper and in electronic charts (gall stone, GS, tanno kesseki, tanseki, etc.). For this reason, the data could not be used as is in statistical analysis and significant costs were required to correct the data for analytical purposes.

To ameliorate the situation, efforts to standardize disease names have been underway. In particular, the integration of the Disease-Code Master (a list of standard disease names unique to Japan that is used for processing claims for medical treatment) and the ICD-10-compatible standard disease name master (a list of standard disease names that corresponds to the international classification of diseases published by the World Health Organization (WHO)), which was adopted in principle as the MHLW standard for processing claims for medical treatment, greatly contributed to the standardization of disease names in claims for medical treatment.

However, the decision on whether to employ the list of standard disease names in documents other than claims for medical treatment such as electronic patient charts is left to the discretion of the medical institution. Due in part to the independent culture of each hospital and expenses associated with system modification, the process of standardizing the disease names has been slow. This is one reason why valuable medical information is being accumulated in hospitals without being incorporated in data utilization. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

##### <Items to be Implemented>

- a A disease name master that is compliant with global standards shall be adopted in principle when supporting measures in the regional medical sphere based on the regional medical cooperation network.
- b Examinations shall be launched in high priority domains, by incorporating the opinions of private enterprises, for the formulation of a “Comprehensive glossary of medical terminology” that contains disease names, which would be an integral component of the innovation infrastructure in medical fields such as machine translation in medical care for non-Japanese patients, patient interviews using AI and analysis of medical papers.

E. Handling of agreement for sharing patient information in regional medical cooperation network

[To be examined and concluded in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

In reference to the sharing of patient information among medical institutions, etc., the “Guidance on appropriate handling of personal information by operators in medical and long-term nursing care” (notification by Secretary General of Personal Information Protection Commission, Director of Health Policy Bureau, MHLW, Director of Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, MHLW, Director of Health and Welfare Bureau for the Elderly, MHLW, April 14, 2017) states that medical institutions shall make it known to patients, by posting a notice inside the hospital or other means, that patient information would be utilized to “promote linkage with other medical institutions, etc. in the provision of medical care to patients” and that patients are deemed to have agreed to the statement unless they explicitly express their intention of withholding their agreement. However, since it is not clear whether this treatment can be applied to the sharing of patient information in the regional medical cooperation network, some medical institutions independently obtain individual consent from each patient. This extra burden is sometimes cited as one of the reasons why the dissemination of the regional medical cooperation network has not progressed. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

Examinations shall take place and a conclusion shall be drawn on the viability of the method of notifying the purpose of using patient information by posting a notice inside the hospital or other means to ensure that patients do not have an explicit intention of withholding their agreement as shown in the “Guidance on appropriate handling of personal information by operators in medical and long-term nursing care.” The objective is to examine the handling of the patient’s agreement toward alleviating the burden of having to obtain individual consent in the regional medical cooperation network for sharing patient information among medical institutions in the said network.

F. Disclosure of big data pertaining to health, medical care and long-term care to the private sector

[To begin examination in FY2019, concluded and implemented in the first half of FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

Expectations are high for the effective utilization of the National Database of Health Insurance Claims and Specific Health Checkups of Japan (hereinafter referred to as the “NDB”), which refers to medical big data that is an exhaustive collection of data on claims for medical treatment and designated checkups of the entire population on a scale rarely seen in the world. However, as stated in the “Guideline on the provision of data on claims for medical treatment and designated checkups” (MHLW, August 31, 2016), the data is

currently made available only to a limited range of parties including national administrative agencies and prefectural and municipal governments, and not to private enterprises. Also, examinations are currently underway on the infrastructure, such as the comprehensive long-term care insurance database (hereinafter referred to as the “long-term care DB”), which seeks to consolidate data from databases such as the NDB, claims for medical treatment for long-term care and certification of long-term care needs for analytical purposes. However, the method of supplying such data is yet to be disclosed. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a The judgment standard, procedures, etc. for data provision shall be examined, in line with the revision of the Act on Assurance of Medical Care for Elderly People (Act No. 80, 1982) to determine purpose of use of NDB, with concrete needs for the utilization of private enterprises in view, to enable the provision of information in the public interest including the development of new drugs by private enterprises and improvement of the quality of medical care in the form of safety assessment, etc. The results shall be announced as a guideline.
- b In moving toward the provision of consolidated data including NDB and long-term care DB to private enterprises, the judgment standard, procedures, etc. for data provision shall be examined with concrete needs for the utilization of private enterprises in hopes to enable the provision of information in the public interest, such as the development of new drugs by private enterprises and improvement in the quality of medical care in the form of safety assessment, etc. The results shall be announced as a guideline.

G. Appropriate handling of claims made by the patient for the disclosure of personal information including medical records

[To be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2019]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

Paragraph 1, Article 28 of the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57, 2003) states that a person may request a business operator handling personal information to disclose the personal data used to identify the person. Based on the provisions, the patient may request the disclosure of records pertaining to his/her medical treatment including patient charts and claims for medical treatment. Article 33 of the said Act states that a business operator handling personal information “may collect charges” when the business operator is requested to make a disclosure. Paragraph 2 of the Article states, “the business operator shall determine the amounts of charges within the scope considered reasonable in consideration of actual costs.” However, the result of a status investigation conducted recently by MHLW revealed that some medical institutions still collect large sums as disclosure fees. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

Business operators are required to determine the amounts of charges within the scope considered reasonable in consideration of actual costs in reference to claims made by the patient for the disclosure of personal information including medical records. Recommended procedures pertaining to the calculation of disclosure fees by medical institutions shall be shown in a guideline or other forms so that the claims shall not be unfairly restricted due to high disclosure fees or other such factors.

(2) Improvement of patients' access to pharmaceutical information

[To be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

Advertising of medical pharmaceuticals targeted on the general public including patients is prohibited to ensure their appropriate use and to confirm that patients would not fail to examine all options including surgery and radiation treatment. While recognizing the necessity of such restrictions on advertising, some argue that the definition of advertising is ambiguous. Also, pharmaceutical companies have tended to overstretch its interpretation, considering that the provision of objective information such as information on side effects of specific pharmaceuticals would also be construed as advertising. These conditions, which have hampered patients' access to pharmaceutical information, need to be improved. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

The topics related to the provision of information pertaining to medical pharmaceuticals, such as the provision of objective information pertaining to medical pharmaceuticals and cases in which side effect information is provided in response to an inquiry by patients, shall be compiled as Q&A or in other formats after considering their impact on medical practice including a review of their applicability as advertising.

(3) Improvement of the operation of system of foods with function claims

A. Clarification of law enforcement policies on foods with function claims

[To be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

Foods with function claims are food products whose labels on the product package bear function claims backed by scientific evidence, and the business operator is responsible for submitting a notification on these products to the Consumer Affairs Agency. For this reason, it is the business operator that would be subject to disposition under the Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations or applicable laws and regulations if the advertised description of the foods with function claims lacks scientific evidence. However, some have argued that it is difficult for the business operator to foresee the possibility of launching either one of the multiple correctional measures (a recall in response to administrative guidance based on the Food Labeling Act (Act No. 70, 2013) or an administrative order, etc. based on the Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and

Misleading Representations (Act No. 134, 1962) (hereinafter referred to as “the Premium Representation Act”) when the display on the label lacks scientific evidence, noting that this has led to a sense of unfairness and dampened enthusiasm on the part of business operators. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

The definition of scientific evidence that supports functionality shall be clarified and announced as a guideline or in other forms including what kind of cases would be subject to disposition under the Premium Representation Act as lacking in scientific evidence so that the business activities of operators that manufacture and market foods with function claims would not be impeded. In doing so, the “Guideline on the instruction, guidance and announcement of paragraphs 1 and 3, Article 6 of the Food Labeling Act pertaining to violations of the food labeling standard as stipulated in the provisions of paragraph 1, Article 4 of the same Act” (notification by the Vice-Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Agency, Deputy-General Commissioner of National Tax Agency, Director of Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, March 20, 2015) shall be used as reference.

- B. Reinforcement of collaboration in the operation of the system of foods with function claims

[To be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2019]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

Since the system of foods with function claims is based on the Food Labeling Act, any advertisement that corresponds to fraudulent advertising shall be subject to disposition under the Premium Representation Act. While it is proper for advertisements to be regulated under the Premium Representation Act, a general law regarding advertising regulation, the judgment on illegality is made comprehensively from the overall content and not from the individual wording, which makes it difficult for business operators to foresee the existence or absence of problems under the Premium Representation Act when they submit a notification on foods with function claims. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

A guideline pertaining to the improvement of transparency of ex-post checks shall be formulated and released based on collaboration among offices responsible for regulations involved in the notification of foods with function claims and their ex-post regulations so that business operators are able to personally identify post-sales problems under applicable laws and regulations in the stage of notification. At the same time, support is provided to business operators’ voluntary efforts to optimize their labeling. Also, the offices responsible for regulations involved in ex-post regulations shall build a law enforcement mechanism with transparency by utilizing institutions or organizations that assume a third-

party role.

- (4) Simplification of various procedures pertaining to R&D by Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

[To be examined and concluded in FY2019 and implemented in FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

The Council has been working on the simplification of administrative procedures based on three principles: (i) Pursuit of thorough computerization of administrative procedures (digital first); (ii) Information sharing designed to eliminate the trouble of having to enter the same information more than once (once-only); and (iii) Use of uniform documentary forms. Efforts to streamline various procedures at the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (hereinafter referred to as “AMED”) are under study along the above three principles.

As an organization equipped with the functions to act as a control tower for medical R&D, AMED assumes a significant role in accelerating the speed of medical R&D and promptly translating the fruits of research into practical applications while promoting collaboration among industry, educational institutions and government. It has been pointed out that various cumbersome procedures for application, consignment contract, accomplishment report, etc. that research institutions must complete when they take part in R&D proposals of AMED are a major burden for such institutions.

Moreover, an online system designed to simplify, streamline and improve the efficiency of a series of processes “from acceptance of application to screening, adoption, management of adopted tasks and achievement reporting” (the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System, hereinafter referred to as “e-Rad”) began its operation in 2008. The system undertakes the management of R&D with an emphasis on competitive financing schemes under the jurisdiction of regulatory enforcement ministries and agencies including AMED. It has been pointed out, however, that the application procedures on e-Rad are inefficient.

With regard to the procedures of AMED, research institutions applying for AMED’s research project must enter the required information directly on e-Rad and also upload an electronic file that contains the identical input information on e-Rad’s website, resulting in an inefficient practice of having to enter the same information twice.

Also, contract research institutions expend significant labor when they conclude a subcontracting contract with the subcontractor for various tasks including the creation of a contract and adjustment of the wording.

Moreover, other factors behind the burgeoning costs associated with the procedures include the requirement to submit a notification of change in the list of R&D participants every time an R&D participant changes. Also, the ways to disseminate the invitation information and achievement reports, the timing of announcement, format and documents to be submitted differ from project to project.

The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a As for various procedures pertaining to research projects, the duplication arising from the requirement to enter the identical information multiple times shall be eliminated and documents to be submitted shall be simplified by examining a complete transition to online entry using a uniform application form based on improvement of e-Rad functions and other renovations.
- b A template for a subcontracting contract shall be presented to enhance the efficiency of paperwork that is required when research institutions conclude a subcontracting contract.
- c The notification for change in the list of R&D participants shall be simplified, for instance, by reviewing the frequency of the submission requirement.
- d Based on interviews with research institutions and coordination with regulatory enforcement ministries and agencies, the ways to disseminate the invitation information and achievement reports, the timing of announcement, format and documents to be submitted shall be standardized where possible.

### (5) Review of Health Insurance Claims Review & Reimbursement Services

[a, b: To be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2019;  
c: To be examined and an interim report created in FY2019, concluded and  
implemented in FY2020]

### **<Basic Stance>**

The academic experts committee convened by MHLW following the implementation plan for regulatory reform of June 2016 examined the topics of improving the efficiency of screening and ensuring uniformity regarding Health Insurance Claims Review & Reimbursement Services (hereinafter referred to as “the Services”). The examination resulted in the compilation of the “Report by the academic experts committee for the realization of high-quality medical services in an era of data-based health” in January 2017. The concrete plans announced in the “efficiency improvement of the Service’s operations/sophistication plan/progress schedule” of July 2017 based on the above report included “constructing a new screening and payment system,” “improving the efficiency of screening operations,” “eliminating differences among branches,” “reinforcing the governance of the screening committee” and “reviewing the organization and system,” and the Council has monitored its progress.

The amendment of the Act on Social Insurance Medical Fee Payment Fund (Act No. 129, 1948), which would enable the above, was approved at the 198th session of the Diet. Based on the progress so far, the Council needs to monitor the process of reforms that have materialized. The items shown below shall be implemented along the basic stance described above.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Regarding a plan to integrate inspection and other works concerning claims for medical treatment conducted by the screening secretariat with the screening affairs centers to be established at 10 locations across the country, a concrete schedule shall be clarified and

announced.

- b Regarding the “elimination of unreasonable differential among branches” that arises as a result of the integration of computer check rules with the headquarters and the performance, effects, etc. of the disclosure of computer check rules, the implementation conditions shall be confirmed and announced.
- c Regarding the efficient operation of screening and payment functions of the Services, the All-Japan Federation of National Health Insurance Organizations and other organizations as well as their concrete policies, services covered, and processes shall be clarified and announced while paying special attention to the role and necessity of the prefectural screening committees that undertake such functions and the potential of consistent and effective operation of the screening and payment system.

#### (6) The Items Followed up in a Focused Manner

The Medical Care and Long-term Care Working Group selected the items followed up in a focused manner from the previous implementation plan for regulatory reform for this term: “A. Promotion of the dissemination of online medical care,” “B. Reviewing the practices of the Health Insurance Claims Review and Reimbursement Services,” “C. Increasing efficiency in review procedure by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA),” “D. Diffusion of the system of treatment upon request by patients,” “E. Improvement in the system of foods with function claims” and “F. Realization of flexible combinations of services covered and not by long-term care insurance” and engaged in several rounds of intensive discussions on the subject.

##### A. Promotion of the dissemination of online medical care

The Working Group confirmed that the rules on online medical care were updated (creation of Q&A) in FY2018 according to the implementation plan for regulatory reform. The WG also affirmed that the “Guideline on the appropriate implementation of online medical care” will continue to be updated in the future around June every year for the benefit of patients and medical personnel in accordance with the conditions including exceptions on first consultations.

Also, regarding online drug administration guidance, the WG confirmed that examinations are underway in the direction of conducting online drug administration guidance on the premise of securing the appropriate use of medicine. In keeping with the status of deliberations on the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices, the WG will continue to monitor moves on the details of the rules on online drug administration guidance scheduled to be examined in the future.

Moreover, regarding electronic prescriptions, the WG confirmed the concrete schedule for the complete computerization of the electronic prescription scheme including the revision of the guideline in the latter half of FY2019. Also, progress as outlined in the implementation plan for regulatory reform was confirmed for the revision of locations for drug administrator guidance and others. The WG will continue to monitor the status of implementation to promote the dissemination of online medical care and online drug

administration guidance.

B. Reviewing the practices of the Health Insurance Claims Review & Reimbursement Services

The WG conducted a follow-up examination with a focus on the items to be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2018: concentration and integration of branches, streamlining of screening procedures and review of the fee system. With the exception of some delay in the progress of building a new computer system, the WG confirmed progress as outlined in the implementation plan for regulatory reform. The WG will continue to monitor the situation until the scheduled completion in FY2020.

C. Increasing efficiency in review procedure by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)

The WG conducted a follow-up examination with a focus on items to be examined, concluded and implemented in FY2018 regarding the efficiency improvement of screening by PMDA and confirmed progress as outlined in the implementation plan for regulatory reform. The WG will continue to monitor the items to be examined, concluded and implemented after FY2019.

D. Diffusion of the System of Treatment upon Request by Patients

As of December 2018, the number of consultations regarding the System of Treatment upon Request by Patients was 118 cases, of which 19 cases were addressed with existing advanced treatment or clinical trials, while the number of methods approved in response to requests for new treatment outside existing methods was 6 cases. Given this situation, to enable patients to utilize the system promptly, we confirmed that some measures have been taken for in-advance preparation of clinical research plans required for filing of treatment to be given after gene panel testing for cancer, as well as for the streamlining of paperwork, mainly in the second half of FY2018 based on the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan FY2018. We also confirmed that measures such as revision of brochures and website explaining the system have been taken so that the System of Treatment upon Request by Patients will be properly recognized by patients and healthcare service providers. We will continue to observe the development for further dissemination of the system.

E. Improvement in the System of Foods with Function Claims

We mainly followed up on clarification of the stance concerning the Borderline of Pharmaceuticals to Non-pharmaceuticals (Notification in 1971) and establishment of a system for consultation and application, which were to be examined with a conclusion reached in FY2018. We confirmed progress in accordance with the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan. We will continue our follow-up efforts on items to be implemented in FY2019 and thereafter.

## F. Realization of Flexible Combination of Services covered and not covered by the public long-term care insurance

We mainly followed up on clarification of rules for appropriate and flexible combination of services covered and not covered by the public long-term care insurance at the sites of home nursing care and day-care centers, which was to be examined, reach a conclusion and implemented in FY2018. Progress in accordance with the Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan, such as release of the “Provision of nursing care combining services covered and not covered by the public long-term care insurance” (notified on September 28, 2018 by Director of Office for Promotion of Policy Measures Against Dementia, Head of Division of the Support for the Elderly, Head of Promotion Division and Head of Division of the Health for the Elderly, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)) was confirmed. We will continue our follow-up efforts taking into account progress of the Model Project for Selective Nursing Care, a special zone project in Toshima ward, Tokyo.

#### 4. Childcare and Employment Sectors

Today, Japan is faced with great challenges: a decreasing labor force due to the falling birthrate and need for exploration of new business fields. In order for Japan to maintain sustainable economic growth, it is important to invite various workers to participate in the labor market to overcome the labor shortage. Nowadays, more and more people are hoping to choose their way of working according to their own circumstances, such as diversified lifestyle, child-rearing through cooperation between wife and husband, and nursing care for a family member. There is need for creation of an environment where everyone who wishes to work can work without worry.

Based on the stance stated above, we compiled future regulatory reform items to be implemented as follows.

- (1) Clarification of Employment Rules Concerning Conditional Permanent Employees  
(permanent employees to work at specific location or to carry out specific duties)

[a: Start of discussion in FY2020. To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn;  
b,c: Survey is to be conducted within FY2019. Start of discussion based on the survey results]

##### **<Basic Stance>**

In Japan, a large number of people are working under a company's overall direction without knowing clear employment conditions, due to a lack of clear consensus on detailed employment conditions at the time of concluding a labor contract. Amid the growing need for various ways to work including Conditional Permanent Employment (employment at a specific work location or for specific duties, etc.), confirmation and formation of consensus on employment conditions by individual workers and employers in writing is indispensable from the perspective of ensuring a foreseeable and satisfying way to work and to prevent individual disputes between management and labor.

Even though the path to stable employment has been opened by the rule for conversion to non-fixed-term employment, targeted at workers whose fixed-term employment contract has been renewed over five years, this rule is not fully recognized. It is also pointed out that utilization of the system has not advanced because workers fear the possibility of being forced to work endlessly through transfers or working overtime, despite being aware of the system and hoping to work as a permanent employee.

Therefore, in order for the principle of agreement on labor contract to be better known and take root, as well as to realize the "Opinion on Clarification of Employment Rules for Conditional Permanent Employees" (employees to work at a specific work location or to carry out specific duties) (May 20, 2019), the government should implement the following measures.

##### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a For companies that are intending to introduce conditional permanent employment for specific work locations or for specific jobs, MHLW shall examine the following measures and implement necessary items based on the results, to ensure that labor conditions such as work location (including possibility of transfer), duties and working hours are confirmed by individual workers and business operators in writing (including electronic documents) at the time of signing or changing a labor contract.
  - Measures to clearly indicate the possibility of work location change (transfer) or conditions in case of transfer as one of items to be clearly indicated in the labor conditions by the employer, provided in the labor standard laws and regulations.
  - Measures to ensure each worker's specific work location to be stated in the working conditions should the work location be limited, as one of items to be specified in labor conditions, provided by the labor standard laws and regulations.
  - Measures to ensure details of conditions on duties and work location to be confirmed in writing, as one of items to be confirmed about labor conditions, provided by the labor standard laws and regulations.
- b MHLW shall check the implementation status of the system by means such as conducting of survey about application of the conversion rule to non-fixed-term employment on workers and enterprises.
- c MHLW, in order to make the conversion rule for non-fixed-term employment known, shall examine the ways to advertise the system to workers, including the way firms inform workers, whose fixed-term labor contract has been renewed over five years, about details of the conversion rule for non-fixed-term, and implement necessary measures.

(2) Reinforcement of measures to eliminate resignation for nursing

A. Realization of even more flexible time off for caregiver system

[To be examined and a conclusion reached in FY2020. To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn]

**<Basic Stance>**

The government has been working to “eliminate resignation for nursing” by expansion of nursing care services and establishment of a system to support the balancing of work and nursing care. However, as the number of people who provide nursing care while working is likely to continue growing, it is necessary to make further efforts.

In case of nursing care for dementia patients, which is significantly increasing in number in recent years, family members, who are care providers, are often forced to cope with unexpected incidents, due to dementia symptoms such as BPSD including wandering and violence. Additionally, dementia is characterized by its progressive symptoms that make it indispensable for caregivers in the family to secure opportunities to consult with nursing care experts according to changes, for example, to review the care plan. In most cases, such consultation only takes a short time, but in the existing time off for caregiver system, the time off must be used on a “half-day” basis, making it impossible to take shorter-term leave corresponding to actual required time.

Based on the perception stated above, the Council proposes that the following measures be taken.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

Regarding the unit for time off for caregivers, MHLW shall take measures toward review on necessary laws and regulations to ensure that taking time off on an hourly basis will be possible.

B. Exhaustive information sharing with workers who work while providing nursing care for family member

[To be implemented in FY2020]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

Although there is a system to support balancing of nursing care and work to enable handling of care giving and work at the same time, more than 90% of caregivers in families have never used neither time off for caregivers nor caregiver leave, and only 42.2% of caregivers in families are aware of the system.

According to a report by the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training, the turnover rate of workers who quit their job for nursing care being aware of the existence of family care leave system at their workplace was about half of that of those who were not aware of the system. We calculated the turnover rate using this result, given that the recognition rate of the existing system becomes 100%, and it turns out that the current turnover rate, 15.0%, would be reduced by about 40%<sup>1</sup>. It would have a great impact on career continuation of women, who make up approximately 75% of the resignations due to nursing care.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish a system to provide necessary information even before the need for nursing care arises. Provision of information from the standpoint of caregivers themselves is called for, such as the scope of family members subject to application of time off for caregivers or caregiver leave.

Based on the basic stance stated above, the Council proposes that the following measures be taken.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

a Although MHLW has released the “notification of long-term care insurance system to second insured persons of long-term care insurance” (released by the Long-term Care Insurance and Planning Division, Health and Welfare Bureau for the Elderly 1001 2<sup>nd</sup> issue, October 1, 2018) concerning notification of the support system for balancing and long-term care insurance system when a worker becomes a second insured person of

<sup>1</sup> While the turnover rate to those who were aware of the family care leave system is 8.8%, the turnover rate of those unaware of the system is 19.5%. (Survey on work and resignation of caregivers, May 31, 2016) Since 42.2% of caregivers in families are aware of the family care leave and time off for caregivers system, (Report on results of evaluation and monitoring on government measures for nursing care, June 19, 2018), the average turnover rate who quit their job due to nursing care was estimated as a weighted average. ( $8.8\% \times 42.2/100 + 19.5\% \times 57.8/100 = 15.0\%$ )

Given that the recognition rate reaches 100%, the turnover rate due to nursing care would be equal to that of those who were aware of the system (8.8%), therefore the decline in turnover rate is 40% (15.0% → 8.8%).

long-term care insurance (age 40) toward medical insurers to call for cooperation, another notice shall be released once again to make the systems better known. In order to inform workers that community comprehensive support centers are available for consultation to reduce burdens on caregivers in families, a description about the community comprehensive support center shall be included in brochures about the support system for balancing work and nursing care.

b MHLW shall provide information and support to care managers through the holding of seminars and making a system to evaluate them, so that care managers can formulate care plans in light of family members' actual working conditions.

(3) Establishment of framework for “Japanese language education for work” targeted at foreign workers in Japan

The number of foreign workers in Japan has been increasing steadily in recent years. According to a survey from last year, numbers of both foreign workers and companies that hire them marked the highest in history. At the same time, the nationality of foreign workers has been diversifying over the past few years while their purpose of work and background are also becoming more diverse. After the revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was enacted in April 2019, acceptance of workers with a “particular skill”, which is a new resident status, started. In order for foreign workers to fully exert their capacity, it is necessary for them to have Japanese language skill to the level that they can freely communicate with superiors and colleagues at work.

With a perception that Japanese language skill is essential for both of Japanese and non-Japanese to have a sense of ease when living together, the government must establish a system to support Japanese language education for work, at companies where foreign persons work, or in local municipalities where they live. For this reason, the following measures should be taken.

A. Support for corporations (Japanese language education for work)

[To be implemented in FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

Contents, methods and evaluation criteria of Japanese language education should vary depending on each learner's purpose, such as day-to-day life, studying or work. Especially when the purpose is work, the required level varies depending on the resident status and job type. At this moment, while some Japanese language schools provide effective language education for work, certification or evaluation of schools is not conducted in terms of expertise in education for workers, resulting in varying levels of school quality. Moreover, among the companies that receive foreign workers, small and medium enterprises are likely to have difficulty in providing Japanese language education on their own. However, the government has not yet provided sufficient support, including provision of information, to enterprises that need assistance for Japanese language education required for work.

Additionally, the “Training Course for Promoting Stable Employment of Foreign Residents”, a program implemented by MHLW as a commissioned project, targets only a limited group of people and an outline of the training curriculum is not made public.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MHLW shall make efforts to gain more recognition of the “Training Course for Promoting Stable Employment of Foreign Residents” as a model curriculum to provide basic Japanese language skill required for foreign persons to work, and disclose an outline of the course to companies that employ foreign persons.
- b MHLW, considering the results of the “Training Course for Promoting Stable Employment of Foreign Residents”, shall examine increasing the number of trainees, so foreign workers who need to improve their Japanese language skill can participate in the training.

B. Support for local governments (Japanese language education for work)

[a: To be implemented in FY2019; b, c, d: To be implemented in FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

There is a great variation in the degree of commitment to Japanese language education by local governments. Many local government bodies do not have a grasp of or provide support to Japanese language education institutions that are mainly run by volunteers in the region, resulting in the delay in establishment of a system through collaboration.

Even though some local government bodies seek for consultation regarding management of the One-stop General Consultation Center for Multicultural Society to be launched in the future in order to provide information and consultation to foreign residents, knowledge based on experiences acquired by predecessor municipalities is not shared and utilized.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a The Ministry of Justice shall promote provision of information on Japanese language education institutions at the One-stop General Consultation Center for Multicultural Society in response to requests from foreign consulters and enterprises that accept foreign workers.
- b The Ministry of Justice shall review the operation status of the One-stop General Consultation Center for Multicultural Society at local municipalities and take measures to enhance functions of the Center.
- c The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), looking towards the future and to reinforce the system, shall improve and enrich the “Program for promotion of establishment of comprehensive regional Japanese language education system”<sup>2</sup> so that all local municipalities where foreign residents live can actively participate in it while understanding their respective local situation. The ministry also

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<sup>2</sup> A program implemented by the Agency for Cultural Affairs to establish a system for local municipalities to reinforce the Japanese language education environment in collaboration with relevant organizations, aiming to support foreign persons' acquisition of Japanese language skill.

shall promote utilization of it and advertise the importance of Japanese language education in local communities.

- d MEXT shall take measures to utilize good case examples, in light of the results from regions that have conducted the “Program for promotion of establishment of comprehensive regional Japanese language education system” in the past.

C. Fostering and securing of personnel (Supporters) to be engaged in education

[a: To be implemented in FY2020; b: To be implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

The standard program for training of Japanese language teachers to teach required skills for working in Japan, such as communication skills and business manners, is not in widespread use. Even after completion of curriculum provided at Japanese language education institutions and acquiring set skills to become a Japanese language teacher, opportunities to demonstrate their ability are limited and working conditions are poor.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MEXT shall further work to develop the “Program for fostering of personnel for Japanese language education and development of training curriculum<sup>3</sup>” and make further efforts for dissemination of the training curriculum of teachers for Japanese language for work and evaluate its effectiveness.
- b MHLW shall inform private education and training institutions that the training of teachers for Japanese language for work is available to people including retired persons and persons who completed child-rearing through the support system for job seekers<sup>4</sup>, and actively utilize the abovementioned system.

D. Ensuring quality of education

[a: To be implemented in FY2021; b: To be implemented in FY2020]

**<Basic Stance>**

In some cases, companies and Japanese language education institution fail to build a common understanding of purpose or target level of Japanese language education for foreign workers, which leads to a failure to fulfill the purpose of capacity building.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a “Comprehensive measures for acceptance of and living with foreign workers”, shall establish a common reference level and provide capacity description as part of a common reference for Japanese language (Japanese version of CEFR) so that it may be used as a guideline for Japanese language proficiency of foreign persons inside and outside of Japan.

<sup>3</sup> In March 2019, the Japanese language group of the Culture Council formulated a revised edition of the “Report on fostering and training of Japanese language teachers” outlining required quality and skills for Japanese language teachers to teach workers, as well as educational contents and model training. The training curriculum is being developed and implemented at present in the “Development project for fostering of and training curriculum for Japanese language teachers.”

<sup>4</sup> A program implemented by MHLW to support job searches of job seekers who are not eligible for employment insurance through job training free of charge and subsidy at Hello Work.

- b MHLW shall create a tool to define and evaluate communication skill in Japanese language at work, specifically designed for workers in Japan, while understanding the needs of enterprises, and provide it as a guideline that enterprises can utilize.

(4) Measures to improve ease of taking annual paid leave

- [a: Survey is to be examined in FY2019, survey starts in FY2020, to be discussed and a conclusion reached as soon as survey results are obtained; b: To be implemented in the first half of FY2020; c: To be discussed with a conclusion reached in FY2019, and implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn]

**<Basic Stance>**

Annual paid leave (hereinafter referred to as paid leave) is intended to be taken for consecutive days by workers to rest mentally and physically. Paid leave is a natural right of workers guaranteed by law and the employer is to offer more than 10 days of paid leave per year to workers who have completed a service period of at least 6 months. However, the rate of paid leave taken by employees in Japan is about 50%, which is significantly low among developed countries and this tendency has remained the same over the past 30 years.

While paid leave is to be taken on a daily basis as a rule, it is now allowed to be taken on an hourly basis due to the Labor Standard Act revised in 2008, in light of the improvement of workers' work-life balance, on the condition of conclusion of a labor-management agreement. However, the duration of holidays is limited to 5 days and the number of companies that have introduced this system remains only about 20%. The government should create an environment in which workers can independently decide how they take holidays, including duration depending on one's circumstances, and make the system more convenient for workers to use so that they can realize an optimal work-life balance and so that every worker can balance work and personal matters to continue his/her career with a sense of security.

As for paid leave on an hourly basis, 70% of workers of companies that have not introduced/adopted the system are hoping for its introduction<sup>5</sup>. It is pointed out that there has not been enough information sharing about the system to both enterprises and workers, and that workers themselves are not aware that taking paid leave is a natural right of workers.

Based on the basic stance stated above, items to be implemented are listed below.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MHLW, in light of the fact that has been quite a long time since the revision of the law in 2008 addressing the taking of paid leave on an hourly-basis, shall examine effective use of hourly paid leave, after a good understanding of the current status is obtained thorough measures such as survey on actual workers' use (e.g. amount of paid

<sup>5</sup> A program implemented by MHLW to support the job searches of job seekers who are not eligible for employment insurance through job training free of charge and subsidy at Hello Work.

leave taken, etc.) regarding taking of paid leave on an hourly basis, stipulated in Article 39, paragraph (4) of Labor Standard Act.

- b MHLW shall make efforts for awareness-raising and dissemination of the system with measures such as advertisement of specific case examples of companies that have already introduced it, in a bid to promote adoption of the system for hourly paid leave.
- c MHLW shall examine adding the system for hourly paid leave to information items to be disclosed by companies based on the Act on Promotion of Female Participation and Career Advancement in the Workplace (Act No. 64 of 2015). In addition, the Ministry shall examine reflecting the information on the database of companies that promote women's participation in society as it contributes to promotion of proactive disclosure by companies.

(5) Examination on job placement for high school students and reinforcement of support

[a: To be implemented in FY2019; b, c: To be discussed and a conclusion reached in FY2019. To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn]

**<Basic Stance>**

Employment selection of high school students is carried out with a set date for employment selection agreed nationally in advance, while specific operation is done according with circumstances in each prefecture.

As for “one student, one company system”, a common scheme of job placement practiced by schools, some suggest that it may be overly restricting independence of high school students as it excessively seeks to secure employment opportunities for them. It is also noted that the existing method of employment selection may not fully reflect the hopes and wishes of high school students themselves and their parents.

A survey result shows that the turnover rate (of high school graduates) within 3 years after employment is approximately 40% and, more notably, the turnover rate within 1 year after employment is higher than that of college graduates. Therefore, some suggest that there may be room to enhance post-employment support as well to expand the range of options for employment selection.

At present, based on “Big-Boned Policies 2018”, discussion on practices associated with employment of high school students is taking place at the Review Conference on Employment Issues of High School Students by MEXT and MHLW, and examination based on the abovementioned basic stance should be carried out.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a MEXT and MHLW shall promptly analyze the actual status of how high school graduate workers evaluate the current employment selection system, and what factors contribute to early separation from a job.
- b MEXT and MHLW shall examine measures to fully provide resources and opportunities for students to understand companies, such as company information sessions and observation tours, so that they may be utilized at schools for education of and guidance to students.

- c MEXT and MHLW shall develop a system to support stable and lasting employment of high school graduate workers, including support for those that leave their job in a short time, collaborating with prefectural governments.
- (6) Fact-finding survey on and Disclosure of need for dispatched day nurses at welfare and nursing institutions

[Survey is to start in the first half of FY2019. To be disclosed in FY2019.]

**<Basic Stance>**

As provided in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act for Securing the Proper Operation of Worker Dispatching Undertakings and Improved Working Conditions for Dispatched Workers (No. 88 of 1986), dispatch of workers for duties to be carried out by nurses is prohibited in principle, since it is feared that it may prevent members of medical care teams from fully understanding each other's capacity and communicating efficiently, thus disrupting medical treatment provided to patients. At special nursing homes, it is allowed to dispatch workers for duties to be carried out by nurses, but dispatch of day nurses is prohibited as a rule. Meanwhile, there are nurses who are out of work and seeking to work as dispatch workers, being unable to work despite their nursing license because their lifestyle does not match the current working system.

Based on the basic stance stated above, we propose that the following measures be taken.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

Fact-finding survey shall be conducted to identify the need for dispatched day nurses at welfare and nursing institutions on nurses, operators of welfare and nursing institutions and people in the field of dispatch business, as well as problems in employment management of dispatched nurses.

- (7) Items that have been followed up with special focus

The childcare and employment working group selected (a) measures for after-school childcare for elementary school children and (b) measures for Children on the Waiting List from the Fourth Report by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform and implementation plan for regulatory reform in June 2017 as items to follow up on with a special focus, and discussed them intensively.

A. Measures for after-school childcare for elementary school children

We conducted hearing surveys on the current status of measures for after-school childcare stated in the Fourth Report by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform from MHLW and MEXT, and confirmed progress in accordance with the abovementioned Fourth Report, including formulation of roadmap for achievement of government target to provide “consolidated type”, merging of the after-school childcare club for elementary school children and the after-school childcare club into one club administered in one elementary school, with the stipulation of the importance of securing places for children to stay after school in the “Guideline for Elementary School Facilities Development.” We will continue

to confirm actions taken by both ministries.

**B. Measures for Children on the Waiting List**

We conducted hearing surveys on the current status (as of April 1, 2019) of measures for the Children on the Waiting List stated in the abovementioned implementation plan for regulatory reform from MHLW. As for the Council on Children on the Waiting List, we confirmed that 16 prefectures have formed it and are using it as an effective system. Progress includes conclusion of agreement regarding priority lane for nursery teachers' children to enter daycare arranged among member municipalities. To achieve the target of "zero children on the waiting list" by the end of 2020, we will continue to confirm actions taken by MHLW.

## 5. Investment and Miscellaneous Issues

Innovative technologies such as AI and big data, brought about by the fourth industrial revolution, is creating pioneering innovation in various fields including education, communications and financial services, making paths for (a) all elementary school children to receive the world's most advanced high quality education, and (b) people to enjoy financial services realized by cutting-edge technologies. To actively utilize such innovative technologies, prompt establishment of the system is crucial.

Regulations on investment by banks and the power-retailing market also must be reviewed appropriately, in light of regional revitalization and promotion of competition.

Based on the basic stance stated above, the items to be implemented are listed below.

### (1) Utilization of state-of-the-art technology in education

- [a: To be implemented in the first half of FY2019]
- b: To be examined and a conclusion should be reached in FY2019.
  - To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn.
- c: To be examined, and a conclusion should be reached and implemented in FY2019
- d: Will start to be examined in FY2019. A conclusion is to be drawn by FY2021.
  - To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn.
- e: Will start to be examined in FY2019 and a conclusion should be reached in FY2020.
  - To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn.
- f: Will start to be examined in FY2019 and a conclusion should be reached in FY2020.
  - To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn.
- g: Will start to be examined in FY2019 and a conclusion should be reached in FY2020.
  - To be implemented as soon as a conclusion is drawn.]

#### <Basic Stance>

Thanks to development of ICT, it is now very common to carry around devices such as a PC, tablet and smartphone. On the other hand, the environment at schools remains very old-fashioned. At elementary, middle and high schools, PCs are installed at a rate of only one device per 5.6 students (national average as of March 2018). Moreover, in many cases, bringing a smartphone to school is prohibited. Although children are familiarized with digital devices from an early age, the current situation at schools does not offer a fully digital environment.

Today, the world is changing rapidly and the speed of change is ever increasing. Human resources of future society must be able to handle tasks that cannot be replaced by AI or robots and play new roles in society. Education also must build a basis that can flexibly address such changes upon the foundation established in the past. We must continue to undertake changes of the school education model in a rapid manner, in accordance with new technology innovation and social change. For instance, in the current school system, there is no choice for teachers other than to conduct classes to the standard of average capacity of the class, due to the basic rule of one-teacher-to-many- students. As a result, some students fall behind while others find classes not challenging enough.

With today's technology standard, it is possible to fundamentally overcome such

limitations at schools. It would be possible to provide effective education by means such as creation of study programs tailored to each student by utilizing data, or designing programs in which each student's level of comprehension is confirmed before moving to an advanced level. Likewise, utilization of digital textbooks that feature sound and movies, or realization of unique education through utilization of external personnel with a high level of expertise, which is beyond the definition of the existing "external personnel" such as new forms of entrance to education by enterprises are expected to make a great influence on students. Furthermore, we need to keep in mind that it would provide teachers with working knowledge, contribute to improvement in the quality of education as a whole and help reduce work burden on teachers.

When we look at the world, attempts to make future-proof schools using state-of-the-art technologies are happening in many places. Overseas, with the aim to materialize "next-generation elementary education", there are schools that provide individual AI programs tailored to each student's strengths and interests, schools doing away with the idea of grades, and schools that undertake cross-curricular projects such as solving actual social problems to focus on the acquisition of soft skills. In Japan also, some high schools, while teaching conventional subject classes utilizing the framework of distant education and internet technologies, are beginning to provide opportunities to fully develop each student's capacity through activities involving their own interests. In light of such moves, we need to examine new ways of learning, while obtaining a good understanding of the situation at schools, to progress swiftly.

With the basic stance stated above, we propose that the following measures be taken.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a In order to provide the world's most advanced high quality education to all students utilizing state-of-the-art technologies, comprehensive measures shall be taken so that digital technologies are used at all elementary, middle and high schools as soon as possible within five years and to make maximum use of them. To do so, discussion shall be carried out on items b-f listed below, taking into account discussion at the Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding, and an interim report including a roadmap shall be formulated primarily by MEXT but also by relevant ministries. This report shall include the content "all schools at all three levels that want to conduct distance education can utilize it as soon as possible (within five years) and formulate an interim report including a roadmap" proposed in the fourth report (November, 2018).
- b In order to fully spread the idea that digital devices such as PCs (including communication environment) are something that should be provided to students on a one-on-one basis like desks and chairs at schools in school education of now and the future, and to realize the ideal educational infrastructure, including "one PC for one student" (including tablets and BYOD) as soon as possible, a plan shall be made in the roadmap stated in (a) and necessary measures shall be taken. To avoid the gap among municipalities in educational infrastructure utilizing state-of-the-art technologies, survey on each municipality's deployment and utilization status shall be conducted and

results shall be disclosed (FY2019). At the same time, with the standpoint of providing the necessary educational environment to students anywhere in the country, planning and implementation of ICT environment development shall be encouraged to all municipalities to promote utilization of ICT at schools. To materialize the ideal education infrastructure by the deadline, corrective actions by the national government shall be examined if necessary. In addition, examination on specific measures shall be done for less expensive environment development through introduction of joint procurement by multiple municipalities, promotion of actions to improve expertise of personnel to deal with the status and challenges of the school's ICT environment, and necessary measures shall be taken for development of the school ICT environment.

- c To promote utilization of information in education, review on the “Guideline for educational information security policy” shall be conducted on items including the ones listed below and necessary measures shall be taken.

- The premise of utilizing the public cloud via public network (cloud by default) at schools shall be clarified and improvement of the network environment shall be implemented, by making a communication infrastructure that has been used by higher educational institutes available for elementary and middle schools.
- Coordination between the school administration networks and classroom teaching networks shall be advanced, after more flexible security measures taken.

Even if the municipality's ordinance restricts online combination (combination of electric calculators via communication line), tentative measures shall be taken (in the first half of FY2019), such as a guideline, which permits online combination at schools on the condition of the introduction of the cloud with security, and further necessary measures shall be taken (within FY2019).

- d As digital textbooks are a new learning material with great potential for enriching children's study and reducing the difficulty of study due to disabilities, effective use of them in education shall be promoted. The effect and impact of digital textbooks shall be evaluated, and at the same time, examination on the optimal system including the items listed below shall be conducted with a survey from the standpoint of international competitiveness, then necessary measures shall be taken.

- Research on utilization status of digital textbooks overseas shall be conducted immediately.
- Contents suitable for “the world's most advanced digital textbooks” as well as the ways to utilize them shall be examined. Then with the results obtained, a guideline for promotion of effective use of digital textbooks shall be formulated.
- Examination on the most appropriate textbook media for study of children to maximize benefits of digitization shall be conducted and necessary measures shall be taken.

- e The fact that units acquired in some subjects in distance education can be added to the number of units required for completion of entire courses in the curriculum of full-time high schools shall be advertised.

- f Measures for development of the environment shall be taken so that children can enjoy

the world's most advanced education regardless of where they live and what circumstances they live under (e.g. children not attending school or sick children), by utilizing simultaneous and interactive distance education or online education tailored to the level of each student's understanding aided by cutting-edge technologies.

g As utilization of cutting-edge technologies provides children with more quality education and is an effective means for reduction of work burden of teachers, discussion on the quality of desirable teachers to support learning utilizing cutting-edge technologies shall be conducted and a conclusion shall be drawn. In the process, it is necessary to flexibly review the scope of roles that have been played only by teachers in the past, in light of the changes of the times, in order to realize a new teaching system that involves various external personnel flexibly. For this, necessary measures to create a system, which allows external personnel, beyond the conventional definition of external personnel, to extensively participate in school education.

## (2) Provision of diverse financial services through FinTech

### A. Wage payment to accounts of fund transfer business operators

[To be examined, a conclusion reached and implemented as soon as possible, FY2019 (on the condition of realization of scheme for safeguarding of funds)]

#### <Basic Stance>

Wage payment to workers, as provided in the Labor Standards Act (Act No. 49 of 1947), must be paid in currency in principle, while payment in something other than currency is permitted when there is stipulation in regulations or management-labor agreement.

Amid the increasing amount of money deposited and transferred via fund transfer business operators, not financial institutions such as banks, permission of wage payment to accounts of fund transfer business operators is needed, from the standpoint of realization of a cashless society and improved convenience of workers including foreign workers.

Based on the basic stance stated above, we propose that the following measures be taken.

#### <Items to be Implemented>

As for wage payment to accounts of a fund transfer business operator, in order to guarantee worker protection such as secure wage payments, discussion and examination with concerned parties on the system shall be conducted to ensure supervision of the system for safeguarding of funds (e.g. insurance system which pays workers sufficient amount of money promptly in case money transfer business operator fails) in addition to ways to manage the system. Then, necessary measures shall be taken as soon as the system is realized. In the process, it has to be kept in mind that future entry (to the market) should not be hampered by overly strict requirements such as regulations beyond necessity for safeguarding of funds or capital regulation that overlaps with regulations for safeguarding of funds.

### B. Money transfer cap for fund transfer business operators

[To be examined in FY2019, a conclusion is to be reached and implemented swiftly]

### **<Basic Stance>**

Exchange transaction, as stipulated in the Payment Services Act (Act No. 59 of 2009), is permitted to banks and, with a limit of minor transactions (up to 1,000,000 yen), to money transfer business operators. However, the need for exchange transactions of large value without banks is emerging from individuals and business operators and the current cap for exchange transactions permitted to money transfer business operators is not fully addressing the need.

Based on the basic stance stated above, the items to be implemented are listed below.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

In order to improve users' convenience, establishment of a new category between existing fund transfer business operators and banks shall be examined to enable smooth money transfers without banks, and then necessary measures shall be taken.

## C. Reimbursement for prepaid payment instruments

[To be implemented in FY2019]

### **<Basic Stance>**

Reimbursement for prepaid payment instruments such as gift certificates and prepaid cards is prohibited as a rule, as it is questioned that permission of such reimbursement could constitute a "deposit", which is prohibited by the Act Regulating the Receipt of Contributions, Receipt of Deposits and Interest Rates (Act No. 195 of 1954).

Against such backdrop, in today's society where the shift to a cashless society has significantly advanced and electric money has become more popular than when the Payment Services Act (Act No. 59 of 2009) was established, prohibition of reimbursement under the system design for prepaid payment instruments that evolved from gift certificates could become an obstacle for the advancement of a cashless society.

Based on the basic stance stated above, we propose that the following measures be taken.

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

Whether to permit reimbursement for prepaid payment instruments shall be examined, taking into account convenience provided by doing away with obligation to identify customers.

## D. Diversification of fundraising means for small businesses

[a: To be examined and a conclusion should be reached in FY2019;  
b: To be implemented in FY2019]

### **<Basic Stance>**

By realization of prompt loan screening through popularization of transaction lending, which provides funds based on transaction data on trading and payment done by enterprises, it would be possible to address the need for short-term lending that had not been fully addressed. However, there are some restrictions such as difficulty for lenders to generate the amount of money that covers the costs of short-term financing under the

existing legal framework (regulation on interest cap at annualized rate), thus hampering the diffusion of it.

At the stock market also, it is noted that it is difficult for companies, R&D companies especially, to raise funds because of low foreseeability in listing examination and requirements to meet sales and profit standards even after listing.

Based on basic stance listed above, we propose that the following measures be taken.

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a To diversify fundraising means for small businesses, research on the need for short-term financing and legal systems in other countries shall be conducted (within the first half of FY2019). Based on the obtained results, measures, including possibility of review on the system, shall be examined to cater more smoothly to the need for short-term financing, including utilization of transaction lending.
- b Fundraising challenges in the stock market faced by emerging enterprises such as R&D companies shall be reviewed and, in order to address such challenges, discussion between exchange and concerned parties shall be promoted.

#### E. Streamlining of Identity Confirmation Procedures

- [a: To be examined, a conclusion should be reached and implemented in FY2019,
- b: To be implemented promptly within the first half of FY2019,
- c: Immediately, d: As early as possible within FY2019]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

The Order for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds (Act No.20 of 2008) provides that, any financial transaction commissioned by a specified business operator to another specified business operator shall not require identity confirmation, when a commissioned specified business operator has already confirmed the identity for another transaction.

Meanwhile, a credit card issuance contract, despite its close association with financial transactions, is not included in transactions allowed for commissioning and is unable to utilize results of customer identification done by other specified business operators, which results in the hampering of shared-identity confirmation among group companies. In addition, there was an interpretational question about whether it is possible to do away with identity confirmation when commissioning financial transactions to business operators which have done customer identifications based on article 13, paragraph 1, clause 1 and 2 of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds (Cabinet Office, MIC, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, MHLW, MAFF, METI, MLIT, No.1 of 2008). Besides that, the Financial Services Agency (FSA) in 2018 announced on its website that it “confirmed with relevant ministries and agencies that interpretation of the law: commission includes commissioning of identity confirmation”, but the National Police Agency (NPA) denied the “confirmation”. Inconsistency among ministries and agencies is unacceptable as the government and correct interpretation of the law needs to be shared and made public. Then, if interpretation

turns out not to permit commissioning of only customer identification, it should be addressed as soon as possible, since concerned industries have been requesting approval for this, and also taking into account the fact that interpretation which allowed it once has been made public.

Based on basic stance stated above, the items listed below should be implemented.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Considering the nature of transaction, inclusion of a credit card issuance contract in transactions applicable for commissioning of identity confirmation shall be examined and measures shall be taken.
- b As for transactions commissioned to business operators which have handled identity confirmation in accordance with article 13, paragraph 1, clause 1 and 2 of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, clarification of interpretation whether it is possible to do away with customer identification based on Article 13, paragraph 1, clause 1 of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds shall be made and results shall be disclosed in an appropriate way.
- c Correct interpretation of the law shall be determined immediately through discussion between FSA and NPA, and results shall be disclosed and advertised.
- d If interpretation of the law determines that only commissioning of identity confirmation is not permissible, appropriate measures shall be promptly taken, in light of long-standing requests from relevant industries as well as past development of this matter.

(3) Vitalization of the electricity retail market

The electricity retail market has been gradually worked towards liberalization since 2000. And following the full liberalization of power retail in 2016, all customers, including general households, can now freely choose their power providers and fee options.

Having been three years since the full liberalization of electricity retail, the competition level between retail electricity providers have risen to an extent. Nonetheless, the share of new players remain low at about 15% of the total electric energy sold, with former general electricity utilities (previous power companies; hereinafter referred to as the “major power companies”) and their wholly-owned subsidiaries, among other related companies, are recovering their shares in some regions (including those sold through agencies and distributors). The system reform for the electricity market was initially intended to encourage the entry of new players so that major power companies will be pressured with competition, and consumers and customers will be provided a competitive landscape that enables more affordable and diverse services, but this goal hasn’t even been half achieved at the moment.

The prime reason for this is due to major power companies owning about 80% of generation facilities, which in turn still leaves the odds of limiting the competition within the retail market through the leveraging of their monopolizing power in the power generation market.

In order to achieve the competitive landscape that the system reform for the electricity

market initially envisioned, the Council proposes the following measures be taken:

A. ‘Non-discriminatory’ power wholesaling by major power companies

[To be implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

In regard to the wholesale supply of power from major power companies to retail electricity providers, the retailing departments of major power companies are mediating the wholesaling for a considerable number of cases. Given new retail electricity providers are competitors for these retailing departments, however, there is strong incentive to curb the amount of wholesale supply.

In addition, although major power companies have started “gross bidding,” where some of the internal transactions will take place through the futures exchange, as discretionary efforts requested by the government in 2016, the same personnel are conducting gross bidding and there are no firewalls for information between the power generation and retailing departments. This is consequently preventing the retailing departments and new players to compete on an equal footing.

In order for the electricity retail market to be driven by competition, there needs to be fairness of competition existing between the retailing departments of major power companies that have power generation departments and new retail electricity providers. It is desirable for the power generation departments of major power companies to provide ‘non-discriminatory’ wholesale supply of power for retailing departments and retail electricity providers outside their corporate groups.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a For the wholesale supply of power from major power companies, it shall be clearly indicated in guidelines, or through other forms that are desirable for power generation departments to be responsible in terms of achieving fair and effective competition.
- b For gross bidding, it shall be clearly indicated in guidelines or through other forms that are desirable for the power generation and retailing departments of major power companies to separately conduct bidding.

B. Ensuring the transparency of the wholesale electricity market

[To be implemented with a conclusion drawn after examination in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

For transactions in the wholesale market, information pertaining to planned and unplanned outages of generating units larger than a certain level, together with operation capacities and usage status of power supply facilities, are prescribed to be disclosed to prevent insider transactions.

However, information disclosure on the operation status of power plants (including information such as fuel constraints that affects power plant operations), which may significantly impact market prices in equal extent, is not required. This creates unequal availability of information between major power companies that own these power plants

and other retail electricity providers, thereby posing risks of insider transactions and market manipulation,

Together with promoting appropriate transactions in the wholesale electricity market, having information disclosure available in an appropriate way is essential in terms of improving the predictability of the market for the diverse array of players.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

A conclusion should be drawn after examination immediately so that information on the operation status of power plants (including information such as fuel constraints that affects power plant operations), which may significantly impact market prices, will be disclosed in an appropriate and timely manner.

C. Opening of a base load market that ensures equal access to base load electricity source

[To be implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

Base load electricity sources refer to electric power sources that provide certain amounts of power stably and reasonably, and includes coal-fired thermal power, large hydropower and nuclear power. Major power companies own these base load electricity sources and are very difficult to access by new power suppliers. For this reason, the establishment of a base load electricity market is being reviewed and is scheduled to open by the end of this year to provide equal access to base load power sources.

It is pivotal that the delivery prices suggested by major power companies are appropriate competition-wise in this market, that is, are not unfairly high compared to internal wholesale prices of the base load electricity source.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

It is important that the delivery prices from major power companies to the base load electricity market will be monitored so they won't unfairly exceed the base load electricity source's wholesale prices for the retail departments of their companies or group. Their validity should also be confirmed while referring to the retail prices for industrial customers (such as plants that use significant power).

D. Establishment of a non-fossil value trade market that won't be excessively disadvantageous for new entrants

[To be implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

To achieve a low-carbon society, the Act on Sophisticated Methods of Energy Supply Structures requires retail electricity providers to increase their ratio of non-fossil sources (renewable energy, large hydropower, nuclear power, etc.) of the electricity they supply to at least 44% by 2030. In order to assist the achievement of this goal, a non-fossil fuel energy value trading market that issues certificates by distinguishing power from non-fossil fuel energy was created.

In this system, it is important to also adequately consider the impact that new retail electricity providers lacking non-fossil energy sources such as large hydropower will have on competition.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

The profits gained by power generation companies through the non-fossil fuel energy certificates in the non-fossil fuel energy value trading market will be utilized to promote the use of non-fossil fuel power sources.

- (4) Review of financing regulations for banks to achieve provincial revitalization

[To be implemented in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

With the decline in the working age population in regional areas being an underlying factor, SMEs that have driven regional economies are facing an array of issues, including difficulty in finding successors and rising personnel costs. Banks that have historically been involved with regional economies primarily through financing are now in a position where they are being needed to help solve such issues through various forms, including investment.

Nonetheless, the possession of voting rights in other companies by banks and other specified institutions are strictly regulated under the Banking Act (Act No. 59 of 1981) that seeks to ensure the soundness of banks and the Act on Prohibition of Private Monopolization and Maintenance of Fair Trade (Act No. 54 of 1947) intended to prevent the excessive concentration of business operations to banks through their so-called “5% rule.” Although there are some exceptions, their applicability and periods are very limited.

Based on the abovementioned basic stance, the following measures should be implemented so that banks can fulfill their expected roles in action taken toward achieving continual growth of regional economies, including the improvement of corporate productivity, implementation of provincial revitalization projects and promotion of smooth business succession:

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a For the possession of voting rights in companies going through business reconstruction, the requirements for exceptions stipulated in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Banking Act (Ministry of Finance Order No. 10 of 1982) should be eased, together with extending the maximum period of possessing the voting rights of SMEs to 10 years from the current 5 years, so that banks can hold voting rights without the involvement of the court, provided the company formulated a rational business improvement plan that mentions assistance from banks and a third party other than banks is involved in formulating the said plan. In addition, policies such as the “Stance on Granting Approval for Possession of Voting Rights by Banks or Insurance Companies Pursuant to the Provisions of Article 11 of the Antimonopoly Act” (November 12, 2002) should be amended and clarify that such cases can obtain approval from the Japan Fair Trade

Commission in principle.

- b For the possession of voting rights of provincial revitalization businesses through investment-specializing subsidiaries, the requirements for exceptions stipulated in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Banking Act limited to cases in which the Regional Economy Vitalization Corporation of Japan (REVIC) is involved shall be eased, for allowing the possession of voting rights for cases in which third parties other than banks are involved in the formulation of the said company's business plans.
- c For the possession of voting rights of business successor companies, a new exception that allows investment-specializing subsidiaries to possess up to 100% voting rights for up to 5 years should be added in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Banking Act based on the standpoint of smoothening business succession, which has become an issue in regional economies.

(5) Matters that were primarily followed up

A. Development of appropriate competitive environment in the mobile market

For the discussions held pertaining to the development of an appropriate competitive environment in the mobile market, it has been confirmed that the items stipulated in the Fourth Report by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform as “items to be implemented” in FY2018 were implemented, including the formulation of rules that cover legal measures attempting to complete separate communication fees and device prices and guidelines to develop an environment for equipment sharing, after hearing opinions from MIC, the Fair Trade Commission and Consumers Affairs Agency.

B. Radio spectrum allocation reform

For progress on discussions pertaining to the radio spectrum allocation reform, the Council conducted a hearing survey from MIC. And given the draft for amendment of the Radio Act during the 2019 ordinary Diet session that includes reviewing radio fee structures and allocation of frequencies for telecommunication businesses that consider economic value was submitted and passed, the Council will continue to observe the progress in enacting the revised Radio Act and allocation of frequencies for broadcasting.

For the securing of management governance of broadcasters, the Council confirmed they were keeping track of current conditions and providing information. In the Implementation Plan for Regulatory Reform announced in June 2018, it was mentioned that the MIC will keep track of the current situation and review necessary measures such as information provision so that more efforts will be made to secure management governance among broadcasting businesses to enhance corporate value and increase profitability. The Council will continue to observe the progress.

For the facilitation of copyright clearance, including a system revision that covers the handling of copyrights concerning simultaneous distribution on the internet, the Council will observe progress on specific discussions that will start at relevant ministries soon within the business year in order to embark on changes in the system as needed within the year, together with making steady progress on operational improvements while

adequately considering relevant parties' opinions.

## 6. Other Important Issues

Concerning common issues cross-cutting the Cabinet office and ministries and important issues which should be comprehensively dealt with, these shall be discussed by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform in which all members of it take part. In this term, the Council discussed the “Realization of a comprehensive exchange” and “Expanding the scope of allowing the use of maiden names for national qualifications, etc.” In addition, a task force was formed to discuss and carry out expert reviews for “Clarification of rules for second jobs and teleworking.”

### (1) Realization of a comprehensive exchange

[a: To be implemented during the first half of FY2019; b: To be implemented during the first half of FY2020; c: To be implemented as soon as possible as necessary with a conclusion drawn after examination during the pilot listing period after FY2020, if electricity goes on trial listing; d: To be implemented as soon as possible after FY2020]

#### <Basic Stance>

The Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform has proposed the realization of a comprehensive exchange as soon as possible around FY2020 in its Fourth Report published in November last year. With the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) and Japan Exchange Group (JPX) reaching a basic agreement on management integration in March this year, with TOCOM becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of JPX and listed precious metals, rubber, agricultural products and other items at TOCOM being transferred to JPX's Osaka Exchange, the series of events acted as steps toward realizing a comprehensive exchange. The items set for transfers should desirably transferred as soon as possible in order to expand opportunities for transactions.

In addition, in response to the Fourth Report, the requirements for the “Agreement” of a minister(s) holding jurisdiction over particular commodities that is needed when commodity derivatives are listed on a financial instruments exchange have been clarified. According to the requirements, commodities with similar content (for example, WTI crude oil and blended crude oil that are same as crude oil from Dubai that is already listed) as those that have already been listed on TOCOM (including financial commodity indicators; hereinafter the same shall apply) are not required to have the industry players account for the majority of trading participants. In the event a new listing application for a commodity derivative has been submitted at the Osaka Exchange, the requirements for agreement that have been stipulated shall secure a high degree of transparency while being applied in a way that will gain understanding from global market players as well.

The Council has requested in its Third Report published in June 2018 that, prior to the realization of an electricity futures market, cooperation with experienced exchanges overseas and the establishment of a comprehensive exchange should be compared and verified, in addition to independent efforts by TOCOM. And in April this year, a public announcement was issued regarding an application submitted from TOCOM to METI for pilot listing. When doing so, it was indicated the listing will be in the petroleum market, reorganized as the “energy market.” Although credibility will be boosted through

management integration of JPX and TOCOM, concerns remain on whether a reliable and easy to use market for market participants will be created in terms of human resources and experience. The establishment of a solid electricity futures market is pivotal to complete the reorganization of the electricity system, and failure will not be tolerated. The decision to whether to approve pilot listing on TOCOM shall be made under strict terms. And in the event it is approved, the option to transfer to the comprehensive exchange (Osaka Exchange) should be compared and verified during the pilot listing.

In addition, it has been agreed that “commodities that comprise the petroleum and Chukyo petroleum markets shall not be transferred for the meantime” in the basic agreement between JPX and TOCOM. However, petroleum and crude oil derivatives are key in comprehensive exchanges abroad, and the demands toward having one-stop transactions available in the securities and finance realms are high here in Japan.

For the handling of energy commodity derivatives, including electricity futures, the FSA and METI should continue to hold talks with relevant parties to achieve the position that our commodity futures market aims for in the global market and design a player-friendly market that can curb players’ costs, although it is up to the decision of the JPX management team, who has TOCOM in its group.

And while the creation of a comprehensive exchange will be a key step forward, the commodity market won’t necessarily be invigorated with this alone. The security and finance realm and commodities realm shall work together to devise strategies swiftly in order to restore vibrancy for Japan’s commodities market that has been following a downhill course through this final opportunity.

Based on the perception stated above, the Council proposes that the following measures be taken:

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

a When making use of the “Agreement” of a minister(s) holding jurisdiction over particular commodities that is needed when commodity derivatives are listed on a financial instruments exchange pursuant to Item 6-2 of Article 194 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (Act No. 25 of 1948), commodities that have already been listed on the commodities exchange or on a pilot listing, or under similar conditions should not be required to include industry players into their trading participants.

In addition, the requirement of an agreement of a minister(s) holding jurisdiction over commodities that will be newly listed shall secure a high degree of transparency while being applied in a way that will gain understanding from global market players as well.

b For the transfer of precious metals listed on TOCOM to the Osaka Exchange and transfer of liquidation to the Japan Securities Clearing Corporation, the Financial Services Agency (FSA) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) shall hold talks with relevant parties in order to make the transfer feasible by the first half of FY2020.

c For electricity and LNG intended to be listed on TOCOM in the basic agreement between JPX and TOCOM, the option to transfer to the Osaka Exchange should be

compared and verified during the pilot listing of electricity to arrive at a conclusion on how the market should be established from FY2020 when the separation of power generation and distribution/transmission will be completed. Necessary measures shall be taken accordingly afterwards. In addition, the screening for the pilot listing of electricity shall be conducted in a strict manner when considering the significance of the reorganization of the electricity system.

- d For commodities in the petroleum market determined as not transferring from TOCOM for some time in the basic agreement between JPX and TOCOM, FSA and METI shall also hold talks with relevant parties on when they should be transferred. In the process, it is important to share the following points to revitalize the commodity futures market:
- Position that our commodity futures market aims for in the global market
  - Feasibility of liquidity enhancement through increased new entrants
  - Design of a player-friendly market that can curb players' costs

(2) Expanding the scope of allowing the use of maiden names for national qualifications, etc.

[a, c, e: To be implemented in FY2019; b, d: To be implemented as soon as possible after starting examination in FY2019]

**<Basic Stance>**

For women to continue building their careers, it is important to be able to use their maiden names, even after marriage or divorce. Nonetheless, there are still some national qualifications that do not allow maiden names to be used<sup>6</sup>.

For example, nursery teachers and care workers, which both have high ratios of female workers, require a renewal of registration certificates in the event of a change of name. And although kindergarten teachers are not required to renew their registrations after a name change, it is not clarified that their maiden names can be written together with their current name on their licenses. Furthermore, life insurance agents, although not a national qualification, are not allowed to use maiden names when registering at bureaus of financial as insurance agents.

On the other hand, a total of 20 medical care-related qualifications such as physicians and nurses had the system changed to approve maiden names written together with their current names onto license certifications starting in January 2019. However, the rules pertaining to assistant nurses in which prefectures are responsible for the issuance of licenses and other procedures vary by region. Some regions do not allow maiden names included together with current names.

Based on the abovementioned basic stance, the following measures shall be taken so that systems will ensure the use of maiden names, at least for the abovementioned qualifications with high ratios of female workers. And for other national qualifications, the regulatory enforcement ministries and agencies shall follow to build an environment for the empowerment of women, acting in unity with the government.

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<sup>6</sup> "Status on the Use of Maiden Names in National Qualification" (Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, May 2017)

### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a For the registration certificates of nursery teachers and care workers, allow the inclusion of maiden names through revising the ministerial ordinance by MHLW that stipulates the formats of registration certificates.
- b For teaching licenses, clarification shall be made that including maiden names are allowed through revising the ministerial ordinance by MEXT that stipulates the formats of teaching licenses, together with making necessary changes in systems upon requesting to prefectural education boards to revise their education board rules that stipulate application formats.
- c For the name in which insurance agents refer themselves as to customers when soliciting insurance, the “Comprehensive Guidelines for Supervision of Insurance Companies” (August 12, 2005) and other guidelines shall be revised to clarify that maiden names may be used.
- d For the registration of insurance agents, changes in systems pertaining to the electronic application for agent registration shall be requested to insurance company-related organizations and insurance companies. And together with the FSA also making necessary changes to their system, the registration of maiden names shall be allowed by revising the ministerial ordinance by the Ministry of Finance that stipulates necessary registration items.
- e For assistant nurses, it shall be made known to prefectures that maiden names may be included in nurse licenses, as well as request the same will be allowed for assistant nurse licenses.

### (3) Clarification of rules for second jobs and teleworking

#### A. Promotion of second jobs

[A conclusion to be reached in a Working Group in 2019, followed by discussions toward reaching a conclusion as soon as possible at the Labour Policy Council]

### **<Basic Stance>**

Holding a second job is effective in efficiently allocating labor resources amid an economy that is short of workers, in addition to increasing the likelihood of gaining income and changing occupations through being able to utilize skills. MHLW amended its model employment rules pertaining to second jobs in January 2018, which now allows second jobs outside of work hours in a worker’s primary job in principle through notification, as opposed to the previous rule that required permission. Regardless, the majority of companies haven’t changed their stance of generally prohibiting second jobs. This is due to the Labor Standards Act requiring employers to aggregate the total hours worked from employees’ main and second jobs based on the standpoint of protecting workers and maintaining their health.

The current Labor Standards Act (Act No. 49 of 1947) stipulates that the “total hours worked shall be aggregated, even if the hours are worked in different workplaces.”

Furthermore, a notification issued<sup>7</sup> specifies that work hours “include hours worked under a different employer.”

However, it would be considerably difficult for employers of main jobs to grasp and calculate the working hours for their employees’ second jobs in practice. This problem will also not be resolved even when assuming workers will report work hours themselves. In addition, based on the interpretation that work in excess of statutory working hours occur through “labor contracts agreed afterwards,” employers of second jobs primarily bear the responsibility of paying increased wages for overtime under the current system, together with having to comply with the maximum overtime hours allowed.

Following such difficulties faced in practice among employers of primary jobs associated with the grasping and aggregation of hours worked by second job workers and a sense of increased burden among employers of second jobs following payments required for increased wages for overtime, companies may become excessively passive towards allowing second jobs and accepting second job workers.

To start, employers’ responsibilities to pay increased wages for overtime shall be interpreted as a way to prevent the same employer from being excessively dependent on overtime work. Thus, the current interpretation indicated from the notice on second jobs based on workers’ freedom to choose is not appropriate.

With that said, from the perspective of promoting second jobs, which would be very beneficial for workers, the interpretation and operation of the current system pertaining to the aggregation of hours worked shall be appropriately reviewed for changes while also keeping in mind the significance of maintaining workers’ health.

Based on the perception stated above, the Council proposes that the following measures be taken:

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

For the appropriate review of the current system pertaining to the grasping and aggregation of hours worked, MHLW shall accelerate discussions in the “Working Group on Work Hour Management for Second Jobs,” start discussions in the Labor Policy Council immediately upon reaching a conclusion to reach a final conclusion while considering to maintain worker health and achieving effectiveness of corporate practices.

#### B. Promotion of teleworking

- [a: To be started in FY2019 and implemented in FY2020;
- b: To be implemented in FY2020]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

Teleworking, which makes use of time at home, satellite offices and travel time, are very beneficial for workers in terms of promoting increased concentration toward their specialized line of operations, together with not having to withstand the commuting rush hours in large cities. It also prevents employees from unwillingly separate from work

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<sup>7</sup> Notification of the Labor Standards Director General, May 14, 1948

following difficulties with balancing child care or nursing or a family member's transfer and potentially leads to expansions of employment for persons with disabilities and residents in regions with limited employment opportunities, while providing many other benefits.

The government is also targeting employed teleworkers to double by 2020 from 2016 (7.7%)<sup>8</sup>, but is far from achieving this goal. The following factors are attributed to this:

First, despite workers voicing their requests to flexibly choose their working hours, including late-night hours, according to their lifestyles that may involve nursing or child rearing, surveys that specifically look into such needs have not been conducted. It cannot be said that appropriate measures are being taken to increase employed teleworkers. Furthermore, the “Guidelines for the Appropriate Introduction and Implementation of Working Outside the Office through Use of Information Technology” (MHLW, February 22, 2018; hereinafter referred to as “Guidelines” in this section) deems “the general prohibition of overtime, holiday and late-night work and incorporating systems that require approval by employers, etc.” as effective against long working hours for teleworkers. However, a guideline that specifically prohibits late-night work hours in principle for telework may potentially give the notion that telework is subject to more restrictions compared to normal office work.

Based on the perception stated above, the Council proposes that the following measures be taken for teleworking so that workers can flexibly choose time zones to work according to their personal circumstances, including their needs to spend time on nursing and child rearing:

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

- a For overtime, holiday and late-night work, a survey will be conducted to investigate the needs of teleworkers.
- b While taking “a” into account, review expressions in the method described in the Guidelines that may potentially cause misunderstanding that late-night work within prescribed working hours are prohibited as countermeasures for long working hours.

#### C. Day labor staffing as second jobs

[To be examined in FY2019 to reach a conclusion as soon as possible]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

The temporary staffing of workers employed on a day-to-day basis or for a period within 30 days (hereinafter referred to as “day labor staffing”) are prohibited in principle since 2012 after the existence of workers employed under unstable conditions and living at internet cafes came into light. Day labor staffing as a second job is approved as an exception, but applies only to those who earn at least 5 million yen from their primary jobs.

Given the current government policy encourages second jobs, the current regulations shall be reviewed so that second jobs in the form of day labor staffing will be more widely

<sup>8</sup> “Declaration to be the World’s Most Advanced IT Nation: Basic Plan for the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization” (Cabinet Decision, June 15, 2018)

accepted. When a worker seeks a second job outside his or her primary job's working hours that utilizes professional skills, day labor staffing that offers options to choose the most suitable time and place to work after registering at multiple staffing agencies provides outstanding convenience to workers. Companies will also benefit by being able to fulfill their extraordinary or temporary employment needs that may suddenly occur due to events and other circumstances.

However, only select workers will be eligible to choose day labor staffing as their second jobs under the current regulations that require an annual income of at least 5 million yen. This shuts out the practical chances of getting a second job, particularly for younger generations with low income. The regulations for day labor staffing for second jobs shall thus be eased so that workers can flexibly choose between employment, staffing or self-employment type second jobs according to their needs.

Based on the perception stated above, the Council proposes that the following measures be taken:

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

For day labor staffing, the requirement pertaining to annual income for "day labor staffing as a second job" shall be reviewed to reach a conclusion as soon as possible while taking into account worker protection in order to expand employment opportunities for second jobs.

#### (4) Matters that were primarily followed up

##### A. Regulatory reform in passenger and cargo transportation businesses to meet the new demand

In the Third Report by the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform published in June 2018, the Council requested to MLIT to consider regulatory reform for the passenger and cargo transportation businesses that can respond to the various needs of individuals.

The ministry has been materializing its plans of incorporating pre-fixed taxi fares and shared ride taxi services that utilize ICT through working with taxi operators prior to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics in 2020, which are worthy of positive evaluations to an extent. These new services should be introduced soon rather than waiting for the Olympics to start.

Meanwhile, the Council continues to encourage reviewing details on how the fee-based transportation by private motor vehicles and emergency assistance taxi businesses should be and come to conclusions by the end of this FY according to the implementation plan.

The fee-based transportation by private motor vehicles currently require being available at "locations void of transportation." It should be noted, however, that the needs not fulfilled through normal taxi services will also be present due to factors from users, such as the increasing number of tourists and the elderly population, or time-related factors such as being in late-night time zones are when events are held, in addition to geological factors such as being in underpopulated areas. Therefore, it should be clarified on the system that services that use private motor vehicles can be implemented flexibly and meticulously

according to needs by interpreting “locations void of transportation” from various perspectives, including time periods, areas and target users.

In addition, entities eligible for running fee-based transportation services by private motor vehicles are limited to municipalities or NPO organizations based on the reasoning that the business is for regions where normal passenger transportation businesses by taxi operators don’t function. However, their actual operations are outsourced to taxi operators, and even when private motor vehicles are used, taxi operators possess the necessary know-how in providing the service, including ensuring safety. Enabling taxi operators to run and provide services in an optimal and efficient manner rather than allowing them to only be consigned by municipality is effective in terms of making this business sustainable without depending on subsidies. Discussions shall continue while taking the perceptions worded in the Third Report into account.

For the emergency assistance taxi business, the “Regarding the Emergency Assistance Business Run by Taxi Operators” notice (notice issued by the Division Chief of Automobile Affairs, Regional Transportation Bureau, Ministry of Transport, on June 29, 1989) was revised to clarify the scope of feasible businesses, but it is difficult to say that it is now adequately made clear that completely new services can be operated. For example, entrusting the delivery of important and urgent documents and keys will offer enhanced convenience to users as well as provide safety in transport. Such new concepts that can cater to diverse demands shall be examined.

### III Reduction of Administrative Procedure Costs

#### 1. Actions taken by the Subcommittee for Administrative Burden Reduction

##### (1) Background

In the 14th Council Meeting held on March 29, 2017 with the Prime Minister present, the “Reduction of more than 20% (in 3 years) in administrative procedure costs (business operator working hours)” and “Three principles for simplification” ((1) Thorough digitalization of administrative procedures (‘Digital First Principle’); (2) Principle of providing the same information only once (‘Once-Only Principle’); (3) uniform documentary forms) were decided to uniformly promote the simplification and digitalization of administrative procedures and conduct regulatory reform from business operators’ perspectives. Each ministry and agency formulated the basic implementing plans comprising a total of 1,223 procedures (83.47 million annual procedures conducted) in June of the same year (and was revised in March 2018 according to the concentrated examinations made by the Subcommittee). The administrative procedure costs (working hours) of business operators measures to a total of around 350 million hours (equivalent to around 900 billion yen) (as of March 2018). For this term, a total of 19 hearing surveys have been conducted since October last year to check on the progress of each ministry and agency for the basic plans. While there were initiatives in some fields that achieved adequate results, some of the effort descriptions were vague or the aforementioned Three Principles weren’t applied thoroughly. The roadmap to achieve anticipated reductions for this field are partially unclear.

Following this, plans to strengthen the following efforts shall be demonstrated to ensure the achievement of goals by the government as a whole:

##### (2) Towards the requirement of online applications

Based on the perception of thoroughly digitalizing administrative procedures, efforts shall be made to require online applications, together with working to achieve 100% online usage rate (for example, FSA plans to proceed with developing a landscape that requires online application). The 20% reduction in administrative procedure costs for business operators will not be achieved if the actual online usage rates are low. The following measures shall be taken:

- 1) For procedures for corporate entities, a simple authentication method using a single ID and password that utilizes the gBizID (Corporate identity federation platform) will be key. While developments are being made in the social insurance and subsidy fields ahead of others, more than a few procedures have not necessarily made much progress in the examination process. Through running risk analysis that utilizes the “Guidelines Pertaining to Online Identification Methods in Administrative Procedures” (decided by the Chief Information Officer's (CIO's) Council of government agencies on February 25, 2019), the procedures evaluated as posing no security risks shall all be incorporated in principle.
- 2) The development of a user-friendly system is also important. Therefore, a monitoring survey (targeting users who aren’t necessarily knowledgeable about digital procedures) shall generally be conducted in advance, with the National Strategy Office of Information and Communications Technology, Cabinet Secretariat being responsible to follow up whether the survey results are appropriately reflected on the final design of the system. In addition, API’s

shall be made public on websites by each ministry and agency for anyone to access in order to provide development opportunities for a wide array of private application software businesses rather than select businesses.

- 3) The omission of unnecessary seals that hinder the reduction of attachments and complete digitalization of applications shall also be worked on with focus. To do so, the performance of administrative work shall be fully reviewed, primarily for procedures that can potentially secure opportunities for identification due to systematic factors through field inspections, etc. after the issuance of permits and licenses. In addition, actions should be immediately taken on unifying the forms and formats that differ by local municipality and abolishing local rules that vary by local branch office, assuming that digitalization will be materialized.

(3) Necessity of strengthening measures

Ministries and agencies shall further upgrade their strategies to ensure achievement of reducing administrative procedure costs by 20% by the end of this FY, the final year of the 3 years planned, based on the “Reducing Administrative Procedure Costs” (created April 24, 2018 and to be revised in June 2019), and items pointed out in the Subcommittee while taking into account the abovementioned perception.

In particular, for procedures not fully anticipated to demonstrate cost reduction effects, various case studies in other fields (applicable best practices) shall be used as reference to drastically strengthen measures.

For the measures devised by ministries and agencies as described above and the actual results of administrative procedure costs measured as of the end of the 3 years (end of this FY), inspections and evaluations shall be conducted by March 2020.

(4) Rolling out of local municipalities

Local municipalities, in addition to the government, shall also uniformly promote the simplification and digitalization of the regulatory reform and administrative procedures while sticking with the decentralization of authority. The Subcommittee also has worked on this as a focused issue for this FY, and while there are increasingly more local municipalities that are taking innovative approaches, they nonetheless have not reached satisfactory levels when considering the level of awareness on a national scale. The digitalization of regional administrations is an unavoidable issue for the maintenance and development of regional societies and economies going forward in terms of streamlining regional administrations and improving convenience for business operators, and thus shall be rolled out across local municipalities as soon as possible in line with enactment of the legislative bill of for digital procedures. When doing so, for permit and licensing procedures that are becoming tasks for municipalities, the abolition of seals on application documents shall be worked on by regulating ministries and agencies with responsibility. In addition, specific timetables for unification and digitalization shall be formulated, primarily for procedures that are run the most in a year (for example, the unification and digitalization of procedures regulated by MHLW pertaining to the Food Sanitation Act).

In the event efforts continue to not progress in accordance with the demands of the era, a new legislative system shall be implemented in which the government considers the development of the landscape for local municipalities to drastically proceed with the simplification, unification and digitalization of administrative procedures.

## 2. Matters needing focus

### (1) Simplification of procedures for sole proprietors during business succession

[to be reached a conclusion after examination in 2019; to be implemented in 2020]

#### <Basic Stance>

Business succession at an early phase has become an urgent issue amid the aging population of sole proprietors (business owners in their 70s or older have exceeded 800,000, with more than 60% hoping their business will be succeeded).

For procedures for sole proprietors during business succession, while a simple notification enables the succession of permits and licenses for inheritance, transfer of business, including for so-called gift inter vivos, require the successor to obtain new permits and licenses, shedding light on irrational differences in procedure. This acts as a burden for business operators.

To this, economic organizations have been requesting the simplification of business succession procedures to those similar to inheritance for alcohol retail, cleaning, construction and the 34 industries stipulated in the Food Sanitation Act such as food service, the hotel and barber/beauty industries (accounting for 42% of all sole proprietors overall).

The regulating ministries and agencies shall actively implement the following measures upon recognizing that the business succession of sole proprietors at an early phase is becoming an urgent issue:

#### <Items to be Implemented>

- a For business succession procedures for sole proprietors, regulating ministries and agencies shall implement measures for simplification, such as establishing provisions that approve succession through submitting a simple notification like gift inter vivos, provided the succession of permits and licenses are approved through submitting simple notification for inheritance.
- b MLIT shall work to simplify documents submitted and shorten the processing time for procedures pertaining to succession prior to newly enforcing the succession system for construction permits.

### (2) Realization of simple online application for subsidies and social insurance procedures for small and medium-sized businesses

[Intending to be introduced in April 2020]

#### <Basic Stance>

It is burdensome for small and medium-sized businesses to visit multiple social insurance-related offices (pension offices or job-placement offices “Hello Work”) each time an individual employee starts work / quits a job, etc. Online applications are available at

present, but as it needs electronic certificate-based identity verification (annual charge of 7,900 yen is needed for electronic certificate for commercial registration), it has not been in widespread use. In addition, they are required to enter the same information repeatedly when applying for various subsidies, which is also burdensome for them.

Given the goal mentioned in the First Report published in May 2017 of a more than 20% reduction in administrative costs imposed on businesses by March 2020 and the application of overtime cap to small and medium-sized businesses from April 2020 according to the Act on Promoting Workplace Reform, simpler online procedures that are less burdensome for small and medium-sized businesses shall be available in the beginning of FY2020.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a For procedures pertaining to subsidies and social insurance during employment / retirement, etc. for small and medium-sized businesses, the Corporate identity federation platform(gBizID) shall be utilized so online applications can be submitted easily with a single ID and password.
- b While METI is constructing a subsidies application system (jGrants) that allows simpler procedures for small and medium-sized businesses, other ministries and agencies shall introduce the system, and local municipalities shall be encouraged to make use of the same system as well. The unification of application documents, such as financial documents, shall also be worked on.

(3) Burden reduction in issuing certificates of employment for nursery center admission

[a: To be implemented by the end of the first half of FY2019; b: To be implemented by FY2021]

**<Basic Stance>**

As pointed out in the Fourth Report in November 2018, the certificate of employment for nursery center admission varies in format according to the local municipality and needs to be prepared with a seal affixed to each copy, which takes its toll on business.

Since 2017, the government has worked on format unification and digitalization, but the unified format adoption rate is still around 40% of the total (on the number of nursery school admission applicant-basis) as of August 2018, which is low, especially in big cities that face a long waiting list for nursery centers (around 9% and 18% in 23 wards in Tokyo and government-designated cities (with populations exceeding 1 million), respectively). In light of these conditions, together with encouraging the adoption of a unified format to local municipalities while obtaining cooperation from economic organizations, a new unified format for big cities is being developed in pursuit towards widespread adoption in these cities.

Continued efforts toward format unification and digitalization are essential in order to achieve the target unified format adoption rate for admission in FY2020 of 70% on the number of nursery center admission applicant-basis, as indicated in the Fourth Report in November 2018.

**<Items to be Implemented>**

- a Local municipalities shall continue to be encouraged to adopt a unified format through various routes and in effective ways to accelerate format unification. In particular, the unified format that will be created for large cities should be made known and pushed towards adoption for big cities that haven't done so as of date.
- b Relevant ministries and agencies shall work together to construct a completely online system, including the abolition of sealing.

(4) Rolling out of local municipalities' progressive efforts regarding the simplification and online systemization of administrative procedures

[To be continually implemented from 2019 onward]

#### **<Basic Stance>**

In view of the fact that local municipalities are responsible for many tasks pertaining to permits and licenses and subsidies under the law, great effects are anticipated when the simplification of local municipality procedures spread across Japan.

Since June last year, about 30 local municipalities were encouraged to reduce administrative procedure costs. And with reduction goals (30% in 1 year) and results exceeding those of the government, some progressive local municipalities (the prefectures of Tottori, Tokushima, etc.) are close to reaching the target. These initiatives shall be rolled out to more local municipalities going forward.

- 1) A collection of case studies on simplification efforts by progressive local municipalities shall be compiled and offered nationwide.
- 2) For individual permits and licenses, reviews toward simplification shall be requested to regulating ministries and agencies while taking into account the specific requests for simplification of application items and attachments from local municipalities to the government.
- 3) The reduction of administrative procedure costs shall be encouraged to local municipalities through working with successful cases preceding in individual fields (subsidies, certificate of employment, etc.).

#### **<Items to be Implemented>**

Regulating ministries and agencies shall work with relevant ministries and agencies as needed to place focus on the following matters and encourage local municipalities:

- a With some cases suspected of demanding applications in person that are inherently necessary, such as the uniform format being rejected due to a local rule claimed which is technically cannot be recognized according to laws and regulations, or excessive instructions being issued for application documents that are against the Administrative Procedures Act (or the administrative procedure ordinances of respective organizations for administrative guidance), such organizations not only hinder digitalization but also act as significant burdens for business operators due to the excessive and unnecessary corrections they are required to follow. Ministries and agencies shall immediately start inspections and correction by identifying the actual conditions of the administrative work they are legally responsible for to prevent administrative work from violating laws

and regulations.

- b Together with the tasks described in (a), a unified format that are easy for local municipalities to adopt (and can add their customized standards to) and work on the promotion of such format to accelerate the digitalization of procedures.
- c In the event administrative work has been revised to reduce attachments or omit seals as a result of review based on the principles of making procedures online, the details shall immediately be made known to local municipalities. The procedures shall also be encouraged to be made available online. In doing so, the best practices among local municipalities across the nation shall be identified for other municipalities to follow.
- d Of the administrative work local municipalities are responsible for, procedures for corporate entities shall be encouraged to be processed on the Corporate identity federation platform(gBizID). In addition, while securing linkage with the Corporate identity federation platform(gBizID), the development of a common application system for the government and local municipalities shall be considered (and when doing so, both the security and usability shall undergo checks by the National Strategy Office of Information and Communications Technology, Cabinet Secretariat).

### 3. Matters that were primarily followed up

#### (1) Reduction in registration procedures according to the Private Lodging Business Act

The Minpaku operation system is scheduled to be revised in phases by the Japan Tourism Agency between FY2018 and FY2019, such as through adding guideline functions for actions required from business operators based on laws and regulations. In addition, considerations on the introduction of identification methods other than through electronic authentication using the My Number Card have begun based on the “Guidelines Pertaining to Online Identification Methods in Administrative Procedures” (February 25, 2019). Specific system improvements should be made, including the standpoint of enhancing convenience.

While the following revisions are taking place in regard to procedures required pursuant to relevant laws and regulations when implementing Minpaku services, the items that continue to be considered in regulating ministries and agencies shall be worked on with the Japan Tourism Agency.

- (a) In regard to Minpaku-related waste disposal, it can be concluded that measures necessary have been implemented for this term, given the Ministry of the Environment gathered case studies on matters that business operators feel a burden with and are reaching out to prefectures through announcements
- (b) The Ministry of the Environment is investigating how ordinances are established in prefectures in regard to notifications for specified facilities according to the Water Pollution Prevention Act (Act No. 138, 1970). With the ministry planning to discuss measures based on the survey results, a conclusion needs to be reached soon that would not require notifications for services of certain sizes and modes.
- (c) The MLIT is reviewing matters pertaining to notifications on the service initiation date, etc. based on the Sewerage Act (Act No. 138, 1958) while considering the handling of

regulations pursuant to the Water Pollution Prevention Act, which also needs to reach a conclusion soon.

- (2) Realization of an online one-stop service for procedures associated with ownership of light vehicles

To enable online one-stop completion of administrative procedures such as car inspection, tax payment and notification of parking space associated with ownership of light vehicles, the online application for continued inspections became available from May this year as the first phase of development. The online one-stop completion for other procedures should continue to be worked on as well.

- (3) Improvement of document forms and formats in local municipalities

The improvement of document forms and formats in local municipalities proposed based on the Implementation Plan for Regulatory Reform in June 2017 were followed up by the Subcommittee for Administrative Burden Reduction. Their actions are as stated in the attachment, and measures have generally been taken according to the plan. However, for (1) Applications cited as subject to creating and reviewing new unified and standardized formats (Note 1), they should proceed with creation and review according to the scheduled timetable. And for (2) Documentation that were created unified and standardized formats (Note 2, includes those created standardized formats for attached documents) and existing unified and standardized formats that underwent review (Note 3), these formats will be promoted by continually encouraging their use and surveying their usage rates. And from the standpoint of reducing the applying burden, (3) Other items also should continue to be worked on.

(Note 1) Application for preliminary screening of prospective bidders, application for issuance of certificate for tax payment (for application for preliminary screening of prospective bidders)

(Note 2) Format for inquiring salary, etc., application for approval of temporary storage and temporary handling of hazardous materials, application for approval and notification of changes for wholesale retail, specially controlled medical device retail and lending businesses, notification of changes for opening a pharmacy (attachment), application for registration and notification of changes (attachment) for distribution business of poisonous substances or deleterious substances (attachment), notification of change of officers for narcotics retailers (includes attachments), agreement on roadside excavation, application for approval of irregular operation

(Note 3) Application/ result report for the additional (adjusted) amount of institutional benefit payable to authorized childcare facility, etc., notification on the selection of hazardous materials security supervisor, inquiry document pertaining to the decision and implementation of livelihood protection, designated application form for designated visiting care businesses, designated visiting nursing businesses, designated life care businesses for designated facility patients, designated community life care businesses for dementia, application for registration and notification for change in registration item for

outdoor advertising businesses

No.	Item	Description of regulatory reform implementation plan	Current status and plans	Implementation	Ministry responsible
1	Application/result report for the additional (adjusted) amount of institutional benefit payable to authorized childcare facilities, etc.	a Concerning request for payment of institutional benefits [Article 27 of Children and Childrearing Act (Act No. 65 of 2012) and Article 6, Paragraph 1 of the Supplementary Provisions], in consideration of the results of research and study about the actual situation, etc., related to administration of the newly implemented childrearing support arrangement, make review if necessary, including invoices for the payment of basic charges, of the “Application/Result report for the Additional (Adjusted) Amount of Institutional Benefit Payable” described in “Regarding the points for consideration of implementation associated with the change of criteria, etc., for calculation of the amount of expenditure necessary for specified education, childcare, etc.” (Notification of the Supervisory of Children and Childrearing Headquarters, Cabinet Office, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Equal Employment and Children and Families Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on August 23, 2016), while hearing opinions from cities, wards, towns and villages and business operators, and notify cities, wards, towns and villages of	Taking advantage of seminars held in 5 locations across the nation for local governments, opinions were exchanged with personnel from the local governments after the seminars. Based on the feedback received, electronic data in a file format suitable for processing by computer were prepared for the “Application/Result report for the Additional (Adjusted) Amount of Institutional Benefit Payable” described in “Regarding the points for consideration of implementation associated with the change of criteria, etc., for calculation of the amount of expenditure necessary for specified education, childcare, etc.” (Notification of the Supervisory of Children and Childrearing Headquarters, Cabinet Office, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Equal Employment and Children and Families Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on August 23, 2016). For nursery centers, invoices that also include basic charges were created and notified to local governments in March 2019. In addition, a notification was issued in April 2019 for the “Application/Result report for the Additional (Adjusted) Amount of Institutional	Take measures in FY2018	Cabinet Office

		the result in order to apply it to the payments for April, 2019. The relevant formats shall be electronic data in a file format suitable for processing by computer.	Benefit Payable” as well.		
2	Application for an automobile storage place certificate/notification for an automobile storage place	<p>a Concerning the application for an automobile storage place certificate [Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Securing a Storage place, etc. (Act No. 145 of 1962)], a notification for an automobile storage place (Article 5 of the same Act), and a document which shall make a prima facie case showing that an owner of an automobile has a right to use the place which is related to the application or notification of relevant applicant [Article 1, Paragraph 2-1 of the Regulations for Enforcement of the Act on Securing an Automobile Storage Place (National Public Safety Council Regulation No. 1 of 1991)], notify to prefectural police the following within 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To post formats prepared by prefectural police on each prefectural police website in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for processing by computer.</li> <li>• To post information on all prefectural police websites that applications or notification formats of any prefectural police other than the prefectural police receiving the application or notification can be used, and make this known at all windows of prefectural police involved in the application or the notification.</li> <li>• If an application or notification was made in the relevant formats prepared by</li> </ul>	<p>In April 2018, instructions were issued to prefectural police ordering to post applications for an automobile storage place certificate, notifications and attachments for an automobile storage place (hereinafter referred to as “applications”) in formats that are downloadable by applicants and can be filled out by computers. By June, all prefectural police had posted the applications.</p> <p>In addition, it was notified to prefectural police in July of the same year that applications may be accepted even if they are in formats other than those of the prefectural police, provided that they are applications in formats stipulated by regulations, such as having all required items filled out as stipulated in Article 1 of the Regulations for Enforcement of the Act on Securing an Automobile Storage Place (National Public Safety Council Regulation No. 1 of 1991; hereinafter referred to as “the regulation”). At the same time, it was also notified that prefectural police shall minimize the workload of applicants such as through publicizing this matter at information desks and websites and avoiding rejections due to a lack of statement of reasons that explains why the address and location of the car for which a person submits an application</p>	a: To be implemented FY2018	National Police Agency

	<p>other prefectural police, it should be received and handled in an appropriate manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statement of reasons that explains why the address and location of the car for which a person submits an application or notification are different should not be required.</li> </ul>	<p>or notification are different. Furthermore instructions directing details to the abovementioned notifications were issued during the National Traffic Safety Facilities and Traffic Control Personnel Conference held in April 2018 and 2019. Guidance will be provided continually in such national conferences to ensure information desk personnel at police stations will take appropriate measures.</p>		
	<p>b Concerning the application for an automobile storage place certificate, electronic submission through OSS (one-stop-service for administrative procedures for automobile ownership) in a nationally unified format is available. The number of prefectural police at which this electronic submission is available is expected to increase to 43 by the end of FY 2019, and the remaining 4 prefectural police organizations will be advised to incorporate it soon.</p>	<p>To roll out OSS across the nation, opportunities were provided in July 2018 and February 2019 to offer face-to-face guidance and advice on securing budgets and formulating implementation plans for personnel of prefectural police that had no specific plans for incorporating OSS. Guidance and advice will continue to be provided for prefectural police that have no specific plans for incorporating OSS to encourage adopting OSS in 2019 or later, but soon.</p>	<p>b, c:</p> <p>Continuously take measures in FY 2018 and thereafter</p>	
	<p>c Concerning the notification for an automobile storage place, through cooperating with relevant ministries and agencies as well as organizations, the Council for Promotion of OSS consisting of prefectural police will be instructed to enable electronic submission through using OSS with a nationally unified format.</p>	<p>To spread the use of OSS for notifications for automobile storage places (light cars), guidance was provided to the Council for Promotion of OSS so it can be respond to the expansion of applicable procedures scheduled following system updates, together with confirming cooperative efforts going forward by attending liaison conferences with other administrative organs and relevant organizations such as the Light Motor Vehicle Inspection Organization. The Council will continue to work</p>	<p>b, c:</p> <p>Continuously take measures in FY 2018 and thereafter</p>	

			relevant ministries and organizations and provide ongoing guidance.		
3	Application for Qualification Examination for Participation in Competitive Bidding	With regard to an application for qualification examination for participation in competitive bidding (Article 167-5 and Article 167-5-2, etc. of the Order for Enforcement of the Local Autonomy (Cabinet Order No. 16 of 1947)), studies are made by the end of FY2018 based on the predetermined work schedule to promote the creation of standard forms and the standardization of the framework of electronic bidding system. Such studies are made in consideration of results of surveys and opinion hearings on real situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators, and through clarification of items and attached documents that are absolutely necessary for evaluation by municipal governments.	<p>“Study Group for Standardization of Work Process System of Municipal governments and Utilization of AI and Robotics” was established under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in September 2018. The study group is now discussing the standardization of forms, etc. of municipal governments, including the application form of qualification examination for participation in competitive bidding, and is expecting to determine the direction of future discussion by the end of FY2019.</p> <p>Parallel with such discussions in the study group, real situations on application forms of qualification examination for participation in competitive bidding and documents to be attached thereto are being investigated.</p> <p>※ Work schedule is attached.</p>	Study started in FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
4	Application for Certificate of Tax Payment (for application for qualification examination for participation in competitive bidding)	With regard to an application for Certificate of Tax Payment (Article 20-10 of the Local Tax Act (Act No. 226 of 1950)) that is required for an application for qualification examination for participation in competitive bidding, in view of the fact that tax items, etc., which require such tax payment certificates, are different depending on each municipal government, creation of standard forms will be studied in consideration of opinions of the municipal governments and related industries. Such studies are	Further discussion will be made in consideration of results of surveys on the application for qualification examination for participation in competitive bidding and in line with the progress of studies based on the work schedule, while the opinions of the municipal governments and related industries are duly taken into consideration.	Study started in FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication

		made in line with the progress of discussions on uniformity and standardization of evaluation items and attached documents relating to such an application for qualification.			
5	Inquiry Form on Insurance Contract	a. With regard to inquiries on insurance contract (Article 141 of the National Tax Collection Act (Act No. 147 of 1959) governed by the same rules as Paragraph 6, etc. of Article 68 of the Local Tax Act), municipal governments have been advised to use the standard form “Concerning Inquiries on Contract Details (for life insurance and fraternal insurance)”, which was created by the Local Tax Committee consisting of municipal governments (Japan Local Tax Committee) in FY2015 in response to a request based on the Implementation Plan for Regulatory Reform (decided by the cabinet in June 2014). In this relation, the extent of dissemination of such a standard form to municipal governments is investigated by the end of FY2018.	An administrative circular was issued on January 24, 2019 to encourage the municipal governments again to utilize the standard form. On the other hand, the result of surveys on municipal governments about the utilization of the form indicated that those who answered that they were actually using or considering to start using accounted for approximately 70% of prefectural governments and 50% of municipal governments. Thus, further promotion of the utilization is required.	a: Measures taken in FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
		b. When the form is not widely used in municipal governments, municipal governments and the life insurance association, etc. will discuss measures for popularization of the form through a better understanding about actual situations and a hearing of opinions.	In consideration of the result of the above-mentioned survey, measures will be taken as required to better understand actual situations, to conduct opinion hearings and to encourage municipal governments for further promotion.	b: To be studied in and after FY2018 if the standard form does not become popular.	
6	Inquiry Form on Wage, etc.	With regard to inquiries on wage, etc. (Article 141 of the National Tax Collection Act governed by the same rules as Paragraph 6, etc. of Article 68 of the Local Tax Act), the committee consisting of	With regard to the use of the standard form that was finalized by the working group (held three times in FY2018) established in Japan Local Tax Committee, an administrative circular was issued on January	a: Actions taken in FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication

		municipal governments (Japan Local Tax Committee) is request to finalize the standard form taking opinions of business operators into consideration so that such a form can be advised to municipal governments within FY2018, and such a standard form will be advised to municipal governments promptly after finalization. Such a form shall be in the form of electronic data in file formats that are suitable for preparation by computer.	24, 2019 to request municipal governments to start the use thereof.		
7	Tax Notice and Tax Payment Slip, etc. of Individual Enterprise Tax, Auto Tax, Light Vehicle Tax, Real Estate Acquisition Tax, Fixed Asset Tax, City Planning Tax	a. With regard to the payment of individual enterprise tax, auto tax, light vehicle tax, real estate acquisition tax, fixed asset tax and city planning tax, the study is conducted in order of priority in consideration of tax items of which business operators' burden is heavy and should also take into consideration the result of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators. Such a study aims for the start of operation in FY2018 of the system that allows electronic transmission of tax notices and tax statements in nationally standardized forms and electronic payment of such taxes, while keeping in mind the maintenance and repair schedule of related systems.	With regard to fixed asset tax (depreciable assets) for which there are relatively strong requests from business operators, a study aiming for the introduction of electronic tax payment will first be conducted in this fiscal year in parallel with an enhancement of electronic tax filing based on the report of the research and study committee on modality of taxation on depreciable assets (held four times in FY2018) of Research Center for Property Assessment System.	a: Study started in FY2018 and measures will be taken promptly upon reaching any conclusion	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
		b. In addition, efforts will be made to reduce the use of paper slips for tax payment by promoting bank account transfer, payment at convenience stores and payment by credit cards, etc.	The administrative circular issued on January 24, 2019 made a request to every municipal government throughout the country for environmental improvement to facilitate the use of bank account transfer, payment at convenience stores and	b: Measures taken continuously in and after FY2018.	

			payment by credit cards, etc.		
8	Tax Return of Auto Tax and Automobile Acquisition Tax	For tax return of auto tax and automobile acquisition tax, electronic filing by OSS (One Stop Service related to ownership of automobile) in the nationally standardized form is available. The number of prefectures where such an electronic filing is available is expected to increase to 43 prefectures by the end of FY2019. The remaining four prefectures will be encouraged to start the same promptly.	The request for introduction of such an electronic filing has been made to prefectoral governments through the visit to the committee of OSS for prefectoral taxes, to which 47 prefectures attend, as well as the visits to other organizations concerned. In the meantime, one out of the remaining four prefectures is scheduled to start the operation of the same by the end of FY2019.	Actions taken continuously in and after FY2018.	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
9	Tax Return and Tax Payment Slip of Business Facility Tax, Corporate Prefectural Tax and Corporate Municipal Inhabitant's Tax	a. Electronic filing in the national standard form utilizing eLTAX has been available in every municipal government throughout the country for business facility tax, corporate prefectural tax and corporate municipal inhabitant's tax. Municipal governments as well as associations of business operators and tax accountants will be encouraged to promote the utilization thereof.	The administrative circular issued on January 25, 2019 made a request to every municipal government throughout the country to promote the utilization of eLTAX and to encourage associations, etc. of business operators and tax accountants to utilize the same.	a: Measures to be taken continuously in and after FY2018.	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
		b. With regard to tax payment of business facility tax, corporate prefectural tax and corporate municipal inhabitant's tax, a common electronic tax payment system that allows electronic payment of such taxes in the national standard form will be introduced in October 2019.	A common electronic tax payment system for local taxes is being developed by the Local Tax Agency so that such electronic payments can be started in October 2019.	b: Measures to start in October 2019	
10	Tax Report for Establishment of Japanese Corporation, etc.	a. With regard to a notification of establishment of corporation (Paragraph 8 of Article 317-2 of the Local Tax Act), an upgraded eLTAX System will allow from September 2019 that such a notification may be electronically submitted to multiple municipal governments in an integrated	The eLTAX is being upgraded to allow the electronic submission in an integrated manner from September 2019. The three, out of the four municipal governments that have not accommodated to electronic submission, have taken related actions last fiscal year and the remaining one will also take such actions	a: Measures to be taken in September 2019 (Encouragement and advices will continue after FY2018)	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication

		manner in the national standard form. The four municipal governments that have not accommodated to electronic submission will be encouraged to respond promptly to such movement.	within this fiscal year.		
		b. In addition, electronic submission to the national government and multiple municipal governments in an integrated manner will become available before the end of FY2019.	With regard to the integration of electronic submission with national tax authorities, the details of the system upgrade are being discussed jointly by the National Tax Agency and the Local Tax Agency aiming for the start of the system operation in March 2020.	b: Measures to be taken in FY2019	
11	Notification of Personnel Transfer of Salary Earner relating to Report of Salary Payment and Special Collection	The notification of personnel transfer of salary earner relating to the report of salary payment (Paragraph 2 of Article 317-6 of the Local Tax Act) and the same relating to the special collection (Paragraph 3 of Article 321-5 of the same act) can be electronically submitted in the national standard form by utilization of eLTAX in every municipality throughout the country. Every municipal government as well as associations of business operators and tax accountants are encouraged to utilize such a system.	In the administrative circular issued on January 25, 2019, all municipalities were requested to promote eLTAX utilization and to encourage associations of business operators and tax accountants for the utilization thereof.	Measures to be taken continuously in and after FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
12	Report of Salary Payment (Summary Table)	With regard to a report of salary payment (Paragraph 1 of Article 317-6 of the Local Tax Act), its electronic submission utilizing eLTAX in the national standard form is allowed in every municipality throughout the country. Every municipal government as well as associations of business operators and tax accountants are encouraged to utilize such a system.	In the administrative circular issued on January 25, 2019, all municipalities were requested to promote eLTAX utilization and to encourage associations of business operators and tax accountants for the utilization thereof.	Measures to be taken continuously in and after FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
13	Notification of Special	a. The notification of special levy amount (Paragraph 1 of	Nationwide explanatory meetings on eLTAX are	a: Measures to be taken in the	Ministry of Internal

	Levy Amount	Article 321-4 of the Local Tax Act, which is applicable to persons under duty of special collection tax) can be sent electronically by utilizing eLTAX. Municipal governments that do not have an ability to process electronic notices with electronic signature are encouraged to acquire such an ability. The encouragement is given within the first half of FY2018 and also requests municipalities to set a target time schedule for acquiring the ability.	organized (in July through September) for every municipal government to promote the computerization. Also in the administrative circular issued on January 24, 2019, municipalities were requested for proactive and quick introduction of computerization.	first half of FY2018	Affairs and Communication
	b. With regard to the notification of special levy amount (for persons under duty of special collection tax), studies will continue until a conclusion is drawn for materialization of eLTAX-based electronic notice throughout municipalities. In the course of such studies, attention shall be paid not to create any difference in handling procedures among the municipalities.	For the materialization of electronic notice, clerical tasks and their countermeasures are being discussed and addressed jointly by local bodies, authorities concerned and personnel of corporations.	b: Measures to be discussed and concluded in FY2018, and necessary actions are to be taken promptly after conclusion is made.		
14	Application for Switching to Special Collection	With regard to the application for switching to special collection (Paragraph 5 of Article 321-4 of the Local Tax Act), eLTAX-based electronic submission in the national standard form is allowed in every municipality throughout the country. Every municipal government as well as associations of business operators and tax accountants are encouraged to utilize such a system.	In the administrative circular issued on January 25, 2019, all municipalities were requested to promote eLTAX utilization and to encourage associations of business operators and tax accountants for the utilization thereof.	Measures to be taken continuously in and after FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication
15	Application for Approval for Temporary Storage and Temporary	With regard to applications for approval for temporary storage and temporary handling of hazardous materials (Provisos of Paragraph 1 of Article 10 of the Fire Service Act (Act. No.	The draft forms (composed of “Example of Application Form”, “Fill-in Procedure” and “Example of Filled Form”) were created with reference to forms of each Firefighting	Measures to be taken in FY 2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication

	Handling of Hazardous Materials	186 of 1948)), a notice, which will be prepared in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations, will be given to municipal governments (Firefighting Headquarters and fire stations) together with a standard form which will also be prepared based on such surveys and opinion hearings. The said surveys and opinion hearings were conducted in the Fire Chiefs' Association of Japan and on business operators. Such a standard form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.	Headquarters. A questionnaire research on the said draft forms was conducted in November and December last year on the Firefighting Headquarters that belongs to the Hazardous Material Committee of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Japan and the draft forms have been improved based on the result therefrom. Then in February, the forms were notified under the name of General Manager of Dangerous Goods Safety Office of the Fire and Disaster Management Agency to prefectural governments, Tokyo Fire Department and the firefighting headquarters of designated cities (Notification No. Shobo-ki 34 of February 14, 2019) as an example of standard forms. In addition to showing the example of forms, the said notification also requested each municipal government to post their own designated form in relation to the said procedure on their website. Word file, etc. have also been posted on website of the Ministry for the said form, etc. <a href="http://www.fdma.go.jp/neuter/topics/kikenbutsu/kiseijimu.html">http://www.fdma.go.jp/neuter/topics/kikenbutsu/kiseijimu.html</a>		
16	Notification of Appointment of Hazardous Materials Security Superintendent	A document certifying actual work experiences to be attached to the notification form of appointment of hazardous materials security superintendent (Article 48-3 of the Regulatory Rules on Hazardous Materials (Ministerial Ordinance issued by Prime Minister's Office No. 55 of 1959)) will be reviewed, as required, with regard to "Work Experience Certificate", which is	The draft forms (composed of "Example of Application Form", "Fill-in Procedure" and "Example of Filled Form") were created with reference to forms of each Firefighting Headquarters. A questionnaire research on the said draft form was conducted in November and December last year on the Firefighting Headquarters that belongs to the Hazardous Material Committee of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Japan	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication

		<p>described in “Concerning Dispatch of Materials for Execution of Clerical Work (excluding Oil Filling Handling Stations) relating to Regulations on Hazardous Materials” (Notification of Manager of Dangerous Materials Regulation Section, Fire and Disaster Management Agency dated July 4, 1989). Such a review shall be made in consideration of results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators. Then, the result of the review will be notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018. The form of such documents as described above shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>and the draft forms have been improved based on the result thereof. Then in February, the forms were notified under the name of General Manager of Dangerous Goods Safety Office of the Fire and Disaster Management Agency to prefectural governments, Tokyo Fire Department and the firefighting headquarters of designated cities (Notification No. Shobo-ki 34 of February 14, 2019) as an example of the standard forms. In addition to showing the example of forms, the said notification also requested each municipal government to post their own designated form in relation to the said procedure on their website. Word file, etc. have also been posted on website of the Ministry regarding the said form, etc.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.fdma.go.jp/neuter/topics/kikenbutsu/kiseijimu.html">http://www.fdma.go.jp/neuter/topics/kikenbutsu/kiseijimu.html</a>)</p>		
17	Application for Approval and Notification of Changes, etc. for Wholesale Business, Selling Business of Specially Controlled Medical Devices, etc. and Leasing Business and Notification of Changes, etc. of Opening of Pharmacy	<p>a. With regard to applications for approval for wholesale business (Article 34 of the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (Act No. 145 of 1960)), applications for approval for selling business of specially controlled medical devices, etc. and leasing business (Article 39 of the same act), notifications of changes, etc. of opening of pharmacy (Article 10 of the same act), notifications of changes, etc. of wholesale business (Article 38 of the same act) and notifications of changes, etc. of selling business of specially controlled medical devices, etc. and</p>	<p>The said form is posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (<a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html">https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html</a>) in the form of electronic data of Word/PDF format on January 31, 2019.</p> <p>In the nationwide meeting of managers in charge of pharmaceutical affairs held on February 27, 2018 and the nationwide committee of managers in charge of pharmaceutical affairs held on September 21, 2018, it has been emphasized to municipal governments that they shall receive any application or notification appropriately when such an application or a</p>	<p>a: Measures to be taken in the first half of FY2018</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare</p>

	<p>leasing business (Article 40 of the same act), electronic data of Form No. 86 “Application for Approval for Wholesale Business” and Form No. 87 “Application for Approval for Selling Business of Specially Controlled Medical Devices, etc. and leasing business” as well as Form No. 6 “Notification of Changes” and Form No. 8 “Notification of Suspension, Abolishment and Resumption”, which are provided for in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (the Ordinance of Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 1 of 1961), shall be posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in a file format suitable for preparation by computer by the end of the first half of FY2018. In this relation, municipal governments are advised that they shall receive any application or notification appropriately when such an application or a notification is submitted in the said form, and that, thereafter, they shall not treat such an applicant or notifier unfavorably during the course of the processing thereof.</p>	<p>notification is submitted in the said form, and that they shall not treat such an applicant or notifier unfavorably including during the course of the processing thereof.</p>		
	<p>b. With regard to any document that is required to be attached to the said application or notification, in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators, standard forms shall be created for any document that is suitable for</p>	<p>Actual situations of municipal governments were surveyed with regard to documents to be attached to an application, etc. and it was decided to create a standard form for “a medical certificate” of which form often varies depending on municipal governments. A form has been prepared to incorporate information</p>	<p>b: Measures to be taken in FY2018</p>	

		<p>standardization and shall be notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018. Such a form shall be in electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>necessary to be mentioned in medical certificates such as information on directors performing work who received an examination, examination items and their details, date of examination, information on a medical institution and name of medical doctors.</p> <p>In order to have such a form widely spread over to all municipal governments, an administrative circular “Concerning Simplification of Government Procedures (a request for cooperation)” dated March 29, 2019 was issued. In addition, the form has been posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (<a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html">https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html</a>) in a form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>		
18	Application for Registration and Notification of Changes of General Distribution Business of Poisonous or Deleterious Substances	<p>a. With regard to an application for registration of a general distribution business of poisonous or deleterious substances (Paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control Act (Act No. 303 of 1950)) and a notification of changes of a general distribution business of poisonous or deleterious substances (Article 10 of the same act), Appended Form No. 2 “Application for Registration of a General Distribution Business of Poisonous or Deleterious Substances, a Distribution Business of Agricultural Items and a Distribution Business of Specified Items” and Appended Form No. 11</p>	<p>The said form is posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (<a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html">https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html</a>) in the form of electronic data of Word/PDF format on August 10, 2018.</p> <p>In the nationwide meeting of managers in charge of pharmaceutical affairs held on February 27, 2018 and the nationwide committee of managers in charge of pharmaceutical affairs held on September 21, 2018, it has been emphasized to municipal governments that they shall receive any application or notification appropriately when such an application or a notification is submitted in the</p>	<p>a: Measures to be taken in the first half of FY2018</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare</p>

	<p>“Notification of Changes” as provided for in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control Act (the Ordinance of Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 4 of 1951) shall be posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare <u>in a form of</u> electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers by the end of the first half of FY2018. In this relation, municipal governments are advised that they shall receive any application or notification appropriately when such an application or a notification is submitted in the said form, and that they shall not treat such an applicant or notifier unfavorably including during the course of the processing thereof.</p>	<p>said form, and that they shall not treat such an applicant or notifier unfavorably including during the course of the processing thereof.</p>		
	<p>b. With regard to any document that is required to be attached to the said application or notification, in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators, standard forms shall be created for any document that is suitable for standardization and shall be notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018. Such a form shall be in electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>Actual situations of municipal governments were surveyed with regard to documents to be attached to an application, etc. and it was decided to create a standard form for “a medical certificate” of which form often varies depending on municipal governments. A form has been prepared to incorporate information necessary to be mentioned in medical certificates such as information on a responsible person, examination items and their details, date of examination, information on a medical institution and name of medical doctors. In order to have such a form widely spread over to all municipal governments, an administrative circular “Concerning Simplification of</p>	<p>b: Measures to be taken in FY2018</p>	

			Government Procedures (a request for cooperation)" dated March 29, 2019 was issued. In addition, the form has been posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare ( <a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html">https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html</a> ) in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.		
19	Notification of Changes of Directors of Narcotics Retailers	a. With regard to the notification of changes of directors of licensed narcotics retailers (Item 7 of Paragraph 3 of Article 3 of the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act (Act No. 14 of 1953)), a standard form shall be created in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators and shall be notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018. Such a form shall be posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers. Thereafter, the form shall be stipulated in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act (the Ordinance of Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 14 of 1953).	With regard to the said form, surveys on actual situations of municipal governments were conducted and the standard form thereof has been created. The created form was notified to municipal governments by the notification "Concerning Notification of Changes of Directors of Narcotics Retailers, etc." dated March 29, 2019. In addition, the form has been posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare ( <a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html">https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html</a> ) in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers. These facts will soon be stipulated in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act (the Ordinance of Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 14 of 1953).	a: Measures to be taken in FY2018 (actions for stipulating in ministerial ordinances will be taken promptly in and after 2018)	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
		b. With regard to the medical certificates of directors that are necessary to be attached to the said notification, a standard form shall be created in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted	Actual situations of municipal governments were surveyed with regard to documents to be attached to a notification, and it was decided to create a standard form for "a medical certificate" of which form often varies depending on	b,c: Measures to be taken in FY2018	

		<p>on municipal governments and business operators and shall be notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018. Such a form shall be posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>municipal governments. The form has been prepared to incorporate information necessary to be mentioned in medical certificates such as information on directors performing work who received an examination, examination items and their details, date of examination, information on a medical institution and name of medical doctors.</p> <p>The created form was notified to municipal governments by the notification “Concerning Notification of Changes of Directors of Narcotics Retailers, etc.” dated March 29, 2019. And the form of medical certificate has been posted on website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (<a href="https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html">https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/iyakuhin/newpage_00843.html</a>) in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>		
		<p>c. With regard to elimination of the need for the attachment of medical certificate of directors who are not involved in the retail business of narcotics, details of such directors, whose medical certificate is not required, will be clarified and notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018.</p>	<p>With regard to types of directors who are required to attach a medical certificate, the notification “Concerning Partial Amendment of [Concerning Application for License of Narcotics Handler (Notification)]” dated March 29, 2019, was sent to municipal governments to clarify the details of such requirements.</p>	b,c: Measures to be taken in FY2018	
20	Inquiry Documents in relation to Decision and Implementation of Public Assistance	<p>With regard to an inquiry in relation to decision and implementation of public assistance (Article 29 of the Public Assistance Act (Act No. 144 of 1950)), “Concerning the survey of life insurance companies” (Notification from</p>	<p>Importance of compliance with “Concerning the survey of life insurance companies” (Notification from Manager of Public Assistance Division, Social Welfare and War Victims’ Relief Bureau, the Ministry of Health, Labour</p>	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

	<p>Manager of Public Assistance Division, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare dated February 13, 2015) will be disseminated to municipal governments by means of a notification and others by the end of FY2018. In the course of such dissemination, if needed, the form of such an inquiry is reviewed based on discussion with municipal governments and the Life Insurance Association of Japan, etc., including modification of the form to allow "designation of date of inquiry". The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>and Welfare dated February 13, 2015) was broadly reminded and emphasized again during the nationwide chiefs meeting relating to public assistance held on March 6, 2019. With regard to inquiries to life insurance company by way of designating the municipal government's desired date of application for public assistance as the date of inquiry, it is still difficult for life insurance companies to respond based on their current system and substantial amount of money is required for the system improvement. Under such circumstances, it was suggested to municipalities on March 29, 2019 that applicability of public assistance and the amount of assistance are permitted to be determined not based on the situations as of the time when the application for public assistance is made but based on the situations as of the time when the life insurance company or financial institute makes response thereto. In addition, separately from the issue of designation of inquiry date but from the viewpoint of load reduction and speed up of clerical work, it is scheduled to improve the system with regard to an investigation of assets of the person that receives public assistance so that written consent of the said person, of which copy used to be indispensable to be attached to the inquiry to a life insurance company, can be eliminated and, instead, an additional note about the said person's</p>	
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			consent to the form of inquiry can be accepted. In this relation, the expense for such system improvement has been budgeted in the second supplementary budget of FY2018.		
21	Application for Designation as Designated Service Providers of Home Visiting Long-term Care, Home Visiting Nursing Care, Outpatient Day Care, Daily Life Long-Term Care for a Person Admitted to a Community-Based Specified Facility, etc. and Communal Daily Long-Term Care for a Dementia Patient, etc.	With regard to applications for designation as designated service providers of home visiting long-term care, home visiting nursing care, outpatient day care, daily life long-term care for a person admitted to a community-based specified facility, etc. (Article 70 of the Long-Term Care Insurance Act (Act No. 123 of 1997)) and applications for designation as designated service providers of communal daily long-term care for a dementia patient (Article 78-2 of the same act), the Form No. 1 “Application for Designation (Approval) of Designated In-home Service Facility, Designated Preventive Service of Long-Term Care Facility, Designated In-home Support for Long-Term Care Facility and Long-Term Care Insurance Facilities” as specified in “Concerning a reference form (draft) for designation of a designated in-home service facility” (the administrative circular of Promotion Division, Health and Welfare Bureau for Elderly, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) dated February 28, 2016 and the Form No. 1 “Application for Designation of Designated Community-Based Service Facility and Designated Community-Based Preventive Service of Long-Term Care Facility” as specified in	With regard to “Concerning Examples of Form for Designation of Designated In-Home Service Facilities, Long-Term Care Insurance Facilities, Designated Preventive Service of Long-Term Care Facility, Designated Community-Based Service Facility, Designated Community-Based Preventive Service of Long-Term Care Facility and Designated In-Home Long-Term Care Support Facilities” (Administrative circular of Division of the Health for Elderly, Promotion Division, Division of the Support for Elderly, Promotion Office for Facilities for Dementia Patients of General Affairs Division, Health and Welfare Bureau for the Elderly, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare dated September 29, 2018), the example of form of applications and other administrative papers relating to applications for designation were reviewed and disseminated in consideration of the result of the review of “Ministerial Ordinance for Partial Amendment of Ordinance for Enforcement of the Long-Term Care Insurance Act, etc.” (Ordinance of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare No. 80 of 2018). File formats of the said example of forms were not well coordinated but were	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

		<p>“Concerning Reference Examples of Rules, etc. in relation to Designation of Community-based Service Facilities” (the administrative circular of Policy Planning Division, Health and Welfare Bureau for Elderly, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) dated February 20, 2016 are notified to municipal governments by means of issuance of notifications, etc. by the end of FY2018. Those forms will be notified together with other administrative papers that are required to be attached to the application. For the purpose of issuance of such notifications, the said application form and related administrative papers, etc. will be reviewed in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators to improve the forms as may be necessary. The said application forms and administrative papers shall be in the form of data file in a file format suitable for preparation by computer.</p>	<p>randomly in Word or Excel format. Therefore, they have been unified to Excel format.</p>		
22	Forest Management Plan	<p>With regard to the Forest Management Plan (Paragraph 1 of Article 11 of the Forest Act (Act No. 249 of 1951)), “Form of Forest Management Plan of Article 34 of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Forest Management Act” as provided for in “Implementation Procedure for Forest Management Plan System” (Notification of Director-General, Forestry Agency dated March 26, 1949) shall be notified for the dissemination to municipal</p>	<p>With regard to the form (a model form) of the Forest Management Plan as provided for in “Implementation Procedure for Forest Management Plan System” (Notification 23-Rinseikei No.230 of Director-General, Forestry Agency dated March 26, 2012) (hereinafter referred to as “Procedure”), a survey was conducted on the existence or absence of difficulties that prefectural and municipal governments and business operators are facing</p>	<p>Measures to be taken in FY2018</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p>

		<p>governments by means of notifications, etc. Before the said notification, etc. is issued, studies on the said form will be made to understand actual situations of difficulties that municipal governments and/or business operators are facing, and to review such a form for any modification, as needed. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computer.</p>	<p>and on the details thereof. The result of the survey revealed that business operators had difficulties in filling-in on the paper form. Therefore, electronic data of the said form in Excel file format has been posted on website of the Ministry. In addition, prefectural governments, etc. have been further encouraged to utilize such a form.</p>		
23	Application for Registration and Notification of Changes of Registered Items of Outdoor Advertisement Business	<p>With regard to the application for registration and the notification of changes of registered items of outdoor advertisement business (Article 9 of the Outdoor Advertisement Act (Act No. 189 of 1949)), necessary reviews will be made on the Form No. 1 “Application for Registration of Outdoor Advertisement Business” and the Form No. 4 “Notification of Changes of Registered Items of Outdoor Advertisement Business”, which are provided for in “Reference Materials for Regulations on Registration of Outdoor Advertisement Business (Draft)” (Notification of Manager of Parks, Green Spaces and Landscape Division, City and Regional Development Bureau, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism dated December 17, 2004), in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators. Then the result of the above review will be notified to municipal</p>	<p>The necessary review has been made on the Form No. 1 “Application for Registration of Outdoor Advertisement Business” and the Form No. 4 “Notification of Changes of Registered Items of Outdoor Advertisement Business”, which are provided for in “Reference Materials for Regulations on Registration of Outdoor Advertisement Business (Draft)” (Notification of Manager of Parks, Green Spaces and Landscape Division, City and Regional Development Bureau, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism dated December 17, 2004), in consideration of the results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators, and the result was notified to municipal governments on September 27, 2018. In this relation, the said form has been created in Word format. Furthermore, as a result of an examination of the necessity of documents to be attached to the said application or notification from the viewpoint of screening work</p>	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

		<p>governments by the end of the first half of FY2018. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers. Any document required to be attached to the said application or notification shall also be reviewed in conjunction with the above.</p>	<p>by municipal governments, it has been decided not to make any amendment to such documents because it has been confirmed that each of those documents has respective reasons for their existence.</p>		
24	Application for Approval for Road Construction Work	<p>With regard to an application for approval for road construction work (Article 24 of the Road Act (Act No. 180 of 1952)), the form provided for in “Concerning Form of Application for Approval for Road Construction Work” (Notification of Manager of Road Administration Division, Road and Highway Bureau, Ministry of Construction dated March 29, 1996) will be notified to road administrators (Prefectural and municipal governments) by the end of FY2018 by means of notifications and others. For the purpose of such a notification, a study will be made on the form of the said application for any modification, as needed, in consideration of the result of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on road administrators. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>As a result of inquiry to every municipal government about the status of use of the national forms and collection and check of actual forms that municipal governments are using, it has been confirmed that approximately 55% of all municipal governments are using the national forms. In the meantime, technical advice was given to municipal governments again on March 19 to request them to use the national forms as the standard and not to treat unfavorably such applications that are prepared in the standard form, in view of the fact that a certain municipal government did not even know the existence of the notification titled “Concerning Forms of Application for Approval for Road Construction Work” issued in 1996, (Notification of Manager of Road Administration Division, Road and Highway Bureau, Ministry of Construction dated March 29, 1996), and that there was a municipal government that would consider the use of the national form based on the technical advice. In addition, the Excel file of the said form has been posted on the Ministry’s website (<a href="http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sisaku/senyo/se">http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sisaku/senyo/se</a>)</p>	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

			nyo.html).		
25	Application for Permission for Occupancy of Roads	With regard to an application for permission for occupancy of roads (Paragraph 1 of Article 32 of the Road Act), Form No. 5 "Application for and Agreement on Permission for Occupancy of Roads" as provided for in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Road Act (Ordinance of Ministry of Construction No. 25 of 1952) will be notified to road administrators (Prefectural and municipal governments) by the end of FY2018 by means of notifications and others. For the purpose of such a notification, a study will be made on the form of the said application for any modification, as needed, in consideration of the result of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on road administrators. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.	As a result of inquiry to every municipal government about the status of use of the national forms and collection and check of actual forms that each municipal governments are using, it has been confirmed that approximately 87% of all municipal governments are using the national forms. Therefore, technical advice was given to municipal governments again on March 19 to request them to use the national forms as the standard and not to treat unfavorably such applications that are prepared in the standard form. In addition, the Excel file of the said form has been posted on the Ministry's website ( <a href="http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sisaku/senyo/se">http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sisaku/senyo/se</a> nyo.html).	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
26	Roadside Excavation Work Agreement	Because the roadside excavation work is performed under voluntary cooperation by business operators, discussion with Tokyo Metropolitan Government and special wards on such work shall be made to avoid any burden to business operators. At the same time, actual situations, etc. of discussions on roadside excavation work in other municipalities should also be understood. By way of such discussions and understanding, standard forms shall be created and necessary actions such as issuance of notifications, etc. for dissemination of the forms	Nationwide investigation was conducted whether or not prefectural and municipal governments have a system for discussion on roadside excavation work, and, for the cases where such a system exists, required documents and designated forms were also checked. As a result, it was found especially in Tokyo that the government of Tokyo Metropolitan and municipal government may require different documents for the same work depending on the site conditions. Because unification of such a procedure is desirable from the viewpoint of work efficiency, Tokyo	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

		<p>shall be taken by the end of FY2018 so that Tokyo Metropolitan Government, special wards and other municipal governments concerned will use the standard forms. The said forms shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Government has been informed of such circumstances and has further disseminated the information to all parties concerned within March.</p> <p>In the meantime, in view of the fact that such a system is not a regulatory requirement under Article 44 of the Road Act but is on voluntary cooperation basis (not a legally required discussion), those municipalities that have posted inaccurate information on their guidelines or website are reminded about the facts.</p>		
27	Application for Temporary License Plate	<p>With regard to an application for temporary license plate (Paragraph 1 of Article 34 of the Road Transport Vehicle Act (Act No. 185 of 1951)), a standard form shall be created as the processing standard (Paragraph 3 of Article 245-9 of the Local Autonomy Act (Act No. 67 of 1947)) in consideration of the result of a survey on actual situations of municipal governments, and such a standard form shall be notified to municipal governments by the end of FY2018. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>With regard to an application for temporary license plate (Paragraph 1 of Article 34 of the Road Transport Vehicle Act (Act No. 185 of 1951)), a standard form was created as the processing standard (Paragraph 3 of Article 245-3 of the Local Autonomy Act (Act No. 67 of 1947)) on March 25 in consideration of the result of a survey on actual situations of municipal governments, and such a standard form (in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers) has been notified to municipal governments.</p>	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
28	Industrial Waste Management Plan and Report on Implementation Status of Industrial Waste Management Plan	<p>a. With regard to an industrial waste management plan (Paragraph 9 of Article 12 of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act (Act No. 137 of 1970)) and a report on implementation status of industrial waste management plan (Paragraph 10 of the same article), the Form No. 2-8 “Industrial Waste Management Plan” and the Form No. 2-9 “Report on Implementation</p>	<p>With regard to an industrial waste management plan and a report on implementation status of industrial waste management plan (both of which include specially controlled industrial waste), of which forms are provided for in the Waste Management Act, surveys on the state of administration thereof in prefectural governments, etc. have been conducted for better</p>	Measures to be taken in FY2018	Ministry of the Environment

		<p>Status of Industrial Waste Management Plan”, which are provided for in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act (Ordinance of Ministry of Health and Welfare No. 35 of 1971) will be disseminated to municipal governments by means of notifications, etc. by the end of FY2018. For the purpose of such dissemination, the said form shall be reviewed as needed in consideration of results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations of municipal governments. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>understanding about the actual situation, and studies on the review of the said forms, etc. have just been completed. According to the result of such surveys, approximately 80% of prefectural governments, etc. answered that they were using the latest forms of the ministerial ordinances. Under such circumstances, a notification was issued in March 2019 to prefectural governments, etc. to promote the use of the current forms provided for in the ministerial ordinances. In relation to issuance of the notification, the forms have been prepared in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers to promote dissemination thereof.</p>		
		<p>b. The same shall be applicable to specially controlled industrial waste management plans (Paragraph 10 of Article 12-2 of the same act) and reports on implementation status of specially controlled industrial waste management plan (Paragraph 11 of the same article).</p>	<p>To be same as “a” above.</p>	<p>Measures to be taken in FY2018</p>	
29	Report on Issuance Status, etc. of Control Manifest for Industrial Waste	<p>a. With regard to a report on issuance status, etc. of control manifest for industrial waste (Paragraph 7 of Article 12-3 of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act), the Form No. 3 “Report on Issuance Status, etc. of Control Manifest for Industrial Waste”, which is provided for in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act, shall be disseminated to municipal governments by means of notification, etc. For the</p>	<p>With regard to a report on issuance status, etc. of control manifest for industrial waste, of which form is provided for in the Waste Management Act, surveys on the state of administration thereof in prefectural governments, etc. have been conducted for better understanding about the actual situation, and studies on the review of the said forms, etc. have just been completed. According to the result of such surveys, approximately 80% of prefectural governments,</p>	<p>a: Measures to be taken in FY2018</p>	<p>Ministry of the Environment</p>

	<p>purpose of such dissemination, the said form shall be reviewed as needed in consideration of results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations of municipal governments. The said form shall be in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers.</p>	<p>etc. answered that they were using the latest forms of the ministerial ordinance. Under such circumstances, a notification was issued in March 2019 to prefectural governments, etc. to promote the use of current forms provided for in the ministerial ordinances. In relation to issuance of the notification, the forms have been prepared in the form of electronic data in a file format suitable for preparation by computers to promote dissemination thereof.</p>		
	<p>b. In conjunction with the above, efforts will be made for dissemination of the control manifest in an electronic format, because the use of such electronic manifest will eliminate the need for submission of a report on issuance status, etc. of control manifest for industrial waste.</p>	<p>For dissemination of the control manifest in an electronic format, briefing sessions were held at 20 locations throughout the nation as a commissioned project of FY2018 of the Ministry of the Environment. As a continuation of the above, and striving for dissemination rate of 70% in FY2022, such briefing sessions are also scheduled at 20 locations throughout the nation in the next fiscal year. Such efforts as above are in line with the 4th Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society adopted at the Cabinet Meeting in June 2018, and such 70% Dissemination is a target set in the roadmap developed in October 2018 for dissemination of the electronic manifests. Thus, efforts for dissemination will continue.</p>	<p>b: Measures to be continuously taken in and after FY2018</p>	

(No. 3 Attachment) Work Schedule for Standardization of Form and Style of Application Documents for  
Screening of Qualification for Participation in Competitive Bidding

	FY2018	FY2019
Application for Screening of Qualification for Participation in Competitive Bidding	<p>Regarding an application for screening of qualification for participation in competitive bidding (Articles 167-5 and 167-5-2, etc. of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Local Autonomy Act (Cabinet Ordinance No. 16 of 1947)), creation of standard forms and standardization of electronic bidding system are pursued based on a predetermined work schedule for completion by the end of FY2018. For such purpose, items and attachments, which are required by municipal government as a minimum requirement for screening, are organized and integrated and results of surveys and opinion hearings on actual situations conducted on municipal governments and business operators are taken into consideration.</p> <p>All local public authorities throughout the nation are requested to provide "electronic data (Excel or Word) of applications for screening of qualification for participation in competitive bidding for each of construction, services and goods". Based on such information provided, terminological variations of forms and items (differences in words describing the same item such as address, place, location, etc.) are organized and standardized.</p> <p>Workshops are organized for standardization of work process/system of municipal governments and for utilization of AI and robotics to start the study.</p>	<p>A draft of standard forms is studied and created in consideration of the report of the workshops and by putting the concepts of standard form in order. At the same time, such standard forms are reflected in the electronic application system of municipal governments.</p>

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	Yukihiro	Journalist
	HASEGAWA	
	Izumi HAYASHI	Attorney-at-law, Sakurazaka Law Offices
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	MORISHITA	
	Naohiro	Specially Appointed Professor, Faculty of Global Business, Showa Women's University
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	Masami	Director Chairman, Fujitsu
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## Associate Members

## ■ Subcommittee for Administrative Burden Reduction

Jun'ichi KAWADA	Director, Executive Vice President, JXTG Holdings
Jiro KOKURYO	Vice President, Professor at Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University
Soichiro SAKUMA	Advisor to the President, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation
Yoshihiro TANAKA	Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Niigata University
Kanae TSUTSUMI	Representative Director, Career Mam
Takao HAMANISHI	Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Shobi University
Yoichiro	Vice President and Executive Officer , Works Applications
YATSURUGI	

## ■ Agriculture and Forestry Working Group

Ryosuke AOKI	Representative Director, Tokyo Chainsaws
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Kazushi SAITO	Representative Director, Shonai Kome Koubou Inc.
Yuko SHIRAI	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance and Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University
Masafumi HAYASHI	Representative Director, Imarimokuzai
Tsuyoshi FUJITA	Representative Director, Fujita Farm
Masayoshi HONMA	Professor, Department of Economics, Seinan Gakuin University
Kaori MITSUMORI	Director, Budoubatake Ltd.
Yoshihide WATANABE	Director and Senior Managing Executive Officer, Chief Director of Corporate Planning, Kagome Co., Ltd.
<b>■ Fishery Working Group</b>	
Masahiko ARIJI	Professor of Fishery and Food Strategy, Institute for World Economy, Kindai University
Hiroshi IZUMISAWA	Representative Director, Izumisawa-Suisan Co., Ltd.
Yukinori SHITAUTSUBO	Representative Director Hironoya Co., Ltd.
Masayuki NAKAJIMA	Director and Senior Managing Executive Officer, Maruha Nichiro Corporation
Wakao HANAOKA	Managing Director, Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd.
Masayoshi HONMA	Professor, Department of Economics, Seinan Gakuin University
Yoshihide WATANABE	Director and Senior Managing Executive Officer, Chief Director of Corporate Planning, Kagome Co., Ltd.
<b>■ Medical Care and Long-term Care Working Group</b>	
Koichi KAWABUCHI	Professor, Health Care Economics, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Teiichi GOTO	Director and Executive Officer, FUJIFILM Corp.
Ryosuke TSUCHIYA	Advisor, Tokiwa Kai Group
Akira MORITA	Professor, College of Policy Studies, Tsuda University
<b>■ Childcare and Employment Working Group</b>	
Mika IKEMOTO	Senior Researcher, Japan Research Institute
Yoichi SHIMADA	Professor, Faculty of Law, Waseda University
<b>■ Investment and Miscellaneous Issues Working Group</b>	
Tsuguhiro KADOKAWA	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kadokawa Corporation
Fumihiro MURAKAMI	Research Director, ICT and Media Strategy Group, Social ICT Innovation Division, Consulting Unit, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.

## Working Group Members

Working Groups	Members			
■Subcommittee for Administrative Burden Reduction	Shigeru TAKAHASHI Junji AN'NEN Miho NOSAKA Izumi HAYASHI Eiji HARA	Chair Vice-chair Member Member Member	Jun'ichi KAWADA Jiro KOKURYO Soichiro SAKUMA Yoshihiro TANAKA Kanae TSUTSUMI Takao HAMANISHI Yoichiro YATSURUGI	Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr.
■Agriculture and Forestry Working Group	Yasuyuki IIDA Yukihiro HASEGAWA Yoko NIYAMA Izumi HAYASHI	Chair Vice-chair Member Member	Ryosuke AOKI Kazushi SAITO Yuko SHIRAI Masafumi HAYASHI Tsuyoshi FUJITA Masayoshi HONMA Kaori MITSUMORI Yoshihide WATANABE	Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr.
■Fishery Working Group	Miho NOSAKA Eiji HARA Yoko NIYAMA Yukihiro HASEGAWA Izumi HAYASHI	Chair Vice-chair Member Member Member	Masahiko ARIJI Hiroshi IZUMISAWA Yukinori SHITAUTSUBO Masayuki NAKAJIMA Wakao HANAOKA Masayoshi HONMA Yoshihide WATANABE	Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr.
■Medical Care and Long-term Care Working Group	Izumi HAYASHI Ryuichi MORISHITA Makiko EDA Miho NOSAKA	Chair Vice-chair Member Member	Koichi KAWABUCHI Teiichi GOTO Ryosuke TSUCHIYA Akira MORITA	Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr.
■Childcare and Employment Working Group	Junji AN'NEN Ryuichi MORISHITA Yasuyuki IIDA Naohiro YASHIRO	Chair Vice-chair Member Member	Mika IKEMOTO Yoichi SHIMADA	Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr.
■Investment and Miscellaneous Issues Working Group	Eiji HARA Ryuichi MORISHITA Yasuyuki IIDA Naohiro YASHIRO	Chair Vice-chair Member Member	Tsuguhiko KADOKAWA Fumihiro MURAKAMI	Ast. Mbr. Ast. Mbr.
■Task Force	Naohiro YASHIRO	Lead		

## Past Discussion of the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform and Working Groups

## ■Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform

40th meeting	November 19, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarization of the report</li> <li>• Concerning regulatory reform hotline</li> </ul>
41st meeting	February 26, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the recommendation on fisheries reform</li> <li>• Concerning priority items in the 2nd half of the 3rd term</li> <li>• Concerning setup of a task force</li> <li>• Concerning regulatory reform hotline</li> <li>• Concerning follow-up of the Implementation Program of Regulatory Reform</li> <li>• Concerning promotion of education utilizing state-of-the-art technology (Interviews with knowledgeable persons)</li> </ul>
42nd meeting	March 20, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning regulatory reform of transportation business of passengers and cargoes to respond to new demand (An interview with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> <li>• Concerning realization of the Comprehensive Exchange (Interviews with the Financial Services Agency, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> </ul>
43rd meeting	April 22, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning opinions on establishment of a framework for “Japanese Language Education to Support Job Seekers” for international workers working in Japan</li> <li>• Concerning full-scale promotion of online remote education (follow-up) and promotion of education utilizing state-of-the-art technology (Interview with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)</li> <li>• Concerning a range expansion of use of maiden name in various national licenses (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Financial Services Agency and other organizations concerned)</li> </ul>
44th meeting	May 10, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning opinions on an enhanced support program for coexistence of work and family care toward elimination of family care-related quitting of jobs</li> <li>• Concerning opinions on promotion of use/utilization of data in healthcare fields</li> <li>• Concerning an enhancement of rules that contribute to diversification of working practices (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>• Concerning realization of the Comprehensive Exchange (Interviews with the Financial Services Agency, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> </ul>
45th meeting	May 20, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the recommendation on activation of the electricity retail market</li> <li>• Concerning opinions on clarification of employment rules for “job-dependent” regular employees (regular employees, etc. who designate their work location and/or job assignment)</li> <li>• Concerning opinions on a style of support for employment of high school students</li> <li>• Concerning opinions on the reform of the Fertilizer Regulation Act</li> <li>• Concerning regulatory reform hotline</li> <li>• Concerning the draft of 5th report on the promotion of regulatory reform</li> </ul>
46th meeting	June 6, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarization of the report</li> </ul>

■Subcommittee for Burden Reduction

4th meeting	November 27, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning subsidies for small businesses and small-scale business operators (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the IT General Strategy Office of Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of the Environment)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning employment-related subsidies (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5th meeting	December 11, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning business succession of self-employed business operator (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6th meeting	December 14, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning business succession of self-employed business operator (Interviews with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Finance)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning simplification of bidding and contract procedures and status of studies on revision of the Construction Industry Act. (Interviews with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerning the follow-up regarding the fundamental plan</li> </ul>
7th meeting	January 11, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning working groups on improvement of long working hours, recruitment and productivity of small businesses and small-scale business operators</li> <li>• Concerning subsidies for small businesses and small-scale business operators</li> </ul>
8th meeting	January 31, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning business succession of self-employed business operator (Interview with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interview with the Japan Business Federation           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning opinions on efforts for simplification of administrative procedures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerning subsidies for small businesses and small-scale business operators</li> </ul>
9th meeting	February 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning enhancement and expansion of one-stop services for car ownership-related procedures (Interview with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning application systems, etc. for food sanitation (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerning business succession of self-employed business operator</li> </ul>
10th meeting	February 26, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts for reduction of cost for administrative procedures in Tokushima Prefecture           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Mr. Iizumi, the Governor of Tokushima Prefecture</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning business succession of self-employed business operator (Interview with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning subsidies for small businesses and small-scale business operators</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		(Interviews with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
11th meeting	March 5, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning burden reduction in relation to the preparation procedure of an employment certificate required for admission to a childcare center (Interviews with the Children/Childrearing Headquarters of the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and private business operators)</li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning guidelines for personal identity verification and the legislative bill for digital procedures (Interview with the IT General Strategy Office of Cabinet Secretariat)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12th meeting	March 11, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning promotion of vocational rental (Interviews with the Japan Tourism Agency, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning development and materialization of the common basis for corporation verification (G Business-ID)</li> <li>- Concerning efforts made in an overseas country (Singapore) for simplification of administrative procedures</li> <li>- Concerning guidelines for personal identity verification (additional explanation) (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the IT General Strategy Office of Cabinet Secretariat)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13th meeting	March 19, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning investigations based on the Subcontracting Act (Interviews with the Japan Fair Trade Commission and the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures for license and permit for business operation” (the Energy Saving Act and the Ordinance for Global Warming Prevention, etc.) (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	March 25, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning efforts by private business operators for simplification of administrative procedures by utilization of IT technology (Interview with Graffer, Inc.)</li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures for license and permit for business operation” (Interviews with the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14th meeting	March 29, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures for license and permit for business operation” (Interviews with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Financial Services Agency)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15th meeting	April 11, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning efforts by private business operators for simplification of administrative procedures by utilization of IT technology (An interview with GVA TECH Co., Ltd.)</li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “national taxes and local taxes”</li> <li>- Implementation Program of Regulatory Reform “form and style of municipal governments” (in relation to local taxes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		(Interviews with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
16th meeting	April 16, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning efforts for AI-based screening of eligibility for admission to a childcare center (Interview with Fujitsu Limited)</li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standardization of forms and styles (Interviews with the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures for license and permit for business operation” (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	April 23, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures for license and permit for business operation” (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedure of subsidies” (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
17th meeting	May 10, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “commercial registration, etc.” (Interview with the Ministry of Justice)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerning expansion of efforts for simplification of administrative procedures to municipal governments</li> </ul>
18th meeting	May 14, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview with the Japanese Bankers Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning the survey report of the workshop on efficiency improvement, etc. regarding receipt and payment of taxes and public funds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures for license and permit for business operation” (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19th meeting	May 21, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “procedures of social insurance” (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerning burden reduction in relation to the preparation procedure of an employment certificate required for admission to a childcare center</li> </ul>
	June 4 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority area “commercial registration, etc.” (Interview with the Ministry of Justice)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interviews with the ministries and agencies concerned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerning payment of the fee for a change in address on health insurance card and J-LIS (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### ■Agriculture and Forestry Working Group

5th meeting	February 18, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning review of regulations hampering utilization of advanced agricultural devices and snow plows (Interviews with relevant ministries and agencies and the Japan Agricultural Machinery Manufacturer's Association)</li> <li>• Concerning regulations on locations for new agricultural production bases (Interviews with the business operators concerned and the Amagasaki municipal government)</li> <li>• Concerning the status of the study on the law amendment with regard to new scheme on wood</li> </ul>
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		supply from national forests and wood production and distribution (Interview with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
6th meeting	March 7, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the status of efforts for review of regulations hampering utilization of drones (Interviews with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> <li>• Concerning regulations on locations for new agricultural production bases (Interviews with the Sendai municipal government and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> </ul>
7th meeting	March 19, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning review of regulations hampering utilization of advanced agricultural devices and snow plows (Interviews with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> <li>• Concerning the status of efforts for review of regulations hampering utilization of drones (Interview with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> </ul>
8th meeting	April 1, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning challenges in promoting the entry of young people into the agricultural industry (Interview with business operators)</li> <li>• Concerning the progress of the agricultural cooperatives reforms (Interview with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> </ul>
9th meeting	April 16, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning issues in relation to the Fertilizer Regulation Act (Interview with business operators)</li> <li>• Concerning issues in relation to a construction of livestock barns (Interview with business operators)</li> </ul>
10th meeting	April 24, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the progress of study toward the review of regulations under the Fertilizer Regulation Act (Interview with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> <li>• Concerning the implementation status of self-improvement of the JA Group during the agricultural cooperative reform intensive promotion period (Interviews with the JA Group and local agricultural cooperatives)</li> </ul>
11th meeting	May 17, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning review of regulations in relation to a construction of livestock barns (Interviews with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)</li> </ul>

## ■Fishery Working Group

2nd meeting	December 21, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the concept of qualification system of medium-scale fishing vessels operating in the adjacent waters (Interviews with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> <li>• Concerning the recommendations on fisheries reform</li> </ul>
3rd meeting	February 20, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the direction of review of the boarding standards for maritime officers on medium-scale fishing vessels operating in the adjacent waters (Interviews with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> <li>• Concerning matters in relation to fish epidemic prevention (Interviews with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Cabinet Office)</li> </ul>
4th meeting	May 14, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning the review of the boarding standards for maritime officers on medium-scale fishing vessels operating in the adjacent waters (Interviews with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerning the use of fisheries medicines (Exchange of opinions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</li> </ul>
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## ■Medical Care and Long-term Care Working Group

3rd meeting	December 10, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of provision of medical big data to private sectors (Interviews with the Japan Business Federation and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Promotion of dissemination of online healthcare (Interviews with Integrity Healthcare Co., Ltd. and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Review of Health Insurance Claims Review &amp; Reimbursement Services (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Health Insurance Claims Review &amp; Reimbursement Services)</li> </ul>
4th meeting	December 20, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of regulations on provision of medical and pharmaceutical information (Interviews with Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Japan Federation of Cancer Patient Groups, Louis Pasteur Center for Medical Research and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Improvement of standards of medical and pharmaceutical-related data (Interviews with Professor Michio Kimura of Hamamatsu University School of Medicine and JustSystems Corporation)</li> <li>Concept of informed consent of patients as a part of information sharing in the network of regional medical cooperation (Interview with Emeritus Professor Hiroyuki Yoshihara of University of Miyazaki and Kyoto University)</li> </ul>
5th meeting	January 17, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures for dissemination of the system for medical treatment proposed by patient (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Review of Health Insurance Claims Review &amp; Reimbursement Services (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Health Insurance Claims Review &amp; Reimbursement Services)</li> </ul>
6th meeting	January 31, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study on burden reduction of administrative procedure of AMED (Interviews with The Japan Association of National Universities, the Cabinet Office and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development)</li> <li>Promotion of dissemination of online healthcare (Interviews with Japan Online Medicine Workshop and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul>
7th meeting	February 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficiency improvement in qualification process of Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency)</li> </ul>
8th meeting	February 28, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of availability of information on medical examination (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Personal Information Protection Commission and Mr. Youichiro Itakura (attorney-at-law))</li> <li>Improvement of application of Food and Drug Classification (Notification of 1971) (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Consumer Affairs Agency)</li> </ul>
9th meeting	March 14, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation program of services for individuals such as PHR in the framework of Data Health Reform (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Concerning expressions used in notifications and advertisements of foods with function</li> </ul>

		claims (Interview with the Consumer Affairs Agency)
10th meeting	March 28, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerning improvement of technical standards and data standards in medical fields (Interviews with Mr. Kimura, Research Managing Director of the National Institute of Public Health and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul>
11th meeting	April 10, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerning promotion of dissemination of online healthcare (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Expansion of data handling range of persons with a mild disease in the framework of foods with function claims system (Interview with the Consumer Affairs Agency)</li> </ul>
12th meeting	April 24, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerning opinions about the study on promotion of data utilization in medical fields</li> </ul>
13th meeting	May 15, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerning the review of Health Insurance Claims Review &amp; Reimbursement Services (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Health Insurance Claims Review &amp; Reimbursement Services)</li> </ul>

### ■Childcare and Employment Working Group

6th meeting	December 7, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning time off for caregivers and caregiver leave (Interview with Japanese Trade Union Confederation)</li> </ul>
7th meeting	January 9, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning time for caregivers and caregiver leave (Interview with Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.)</li> </ul>
8th meeting	January 25, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning annual leaves, time for caregivers and caregiver leave (Interview with Work Life Balance Co., Ltd.)</li> </ul>
9th meeting	February 12, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning the working style designating work locations (Interview with AIG General Insurance Company, Ltd.)</li> </ul>
10th meeting	February 22, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning the working style designating work locations (Interview with Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd.)</li> </ul>
11th meeting	March 12, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with people from outside Japan concerning Japanese language education (Interviews with NPO Research Institute for Japanese Language Education and Nihongo no kai Company Union)</li> </ul>
12th meeting	March 22, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning time off for caregivers and caregiver leave (Interview with Professor Ishiyama of International University of Health and Welfare Graduate School)</li> <li>Interviews concerning Japanese language education for human resources from outside Japan (Interview with Professor Kinugawa of Nagoya University)</li> <li>Follow-up of the review on regulations for power assisted large-size baby buggies (Interview with the Metropolitan Police Department)</li> </ul>
13th meeting	March 29, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning employment rules for “job-dependent” regular employees (regular employees whose work location and/or job assignment are agreed) (Interview with Mr. Noda, an emeritus professor of Kyushu University)</li> </ul>
14th meeting	April 12, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarization of issues on the support system for balancing work and nursing care</li> <li>Interviews concerning the support system for balancing work and nursing care (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul>
15th meeting	April 17, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up of the committee for measures for elimination of wait listed children (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Follow-up of after-school childcare (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)</li> </ul>

16th meeting	May 8, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning employment opportunities of high school students (Interviews with The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)</li> </ul>
17th meeting	May 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews concerning “job-dependent” regular employees (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>Interviews concerning Japanese language education for human resources from outside Japan (Interviews with the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul>

### ■Investment and Miscellaneous Issues Working Group

7th meeting	December 6, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerning the follow-up of regulatory reform with regard to broadcasting (Interview with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> <li>Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech, etc. (Interviews with Japan Association of New Economy, Asia Internet Coalition Japan and Fintech Association of Japan)</li> </ul>
8th meeting	February 6, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up of radio system-related regulatory reform (Interview with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> </ul>
9th meeting	February 18, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech, etc. (Interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Financial Services Agency)</li> </ul>
10th meeting	March 7, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up of regulatory reform in the field of energy sectors (promotion of competition in gas retail markets) (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Mr. Ishikawa, Representative of Institute for Industrial Growth and Social Security Policy)</li> </ul>
11th meeting	March 18, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up of the environmental improvement for fair competition in mobile phone markets (Interviews with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Japan Fair Trade Commission and the Consumer Affairs Agency)</li> </ul>
12th meeting	March 27, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up of utilization of data owned by municipal governments (Interview with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> <li>Follow-up of regulatory reform with regard to broadcasting (Interviews with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Cultural Affairs Agency and business operators)</li> </ul>
13th meeting	April 5, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of regulations on bankers’ investments for regional revitalization (Interviews with the Financial Services Agency, the Japan Fair Trade Commission and the Regional Banks Association of Japan)</li> </ul>
14th meeting	April 11, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activation of electricity retail markets (Interviews with Ennet, Inc., F-Power Inc. and Professor Matsumura of the University of Tokyo)</li> <li>Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Financial Services Agency, National Police Agency, Japan Association of New Economy, Fintech Association of Japan and Japan Financial Services Association)</li> </ul>
15th meeting	April 25, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech (Interviews with the Financial Services Agency, the Ministry of Justice and the Consumer Affairs Agency)</li> <li>Activation of electricity retail markets (An interview with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)</li> </ul>
16th meeting	May 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc.)</li> </ul>
17th	May 17,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realization of the Comprehensive Exchange (Interview with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and</li> </ul>

meeting	2019	<p>Industry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation on activation of electricity retail markets</li> <li>• Concerning the follow-up of regulatory reform with regard to broadcasting (Interviews with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Cultural Affairs Agency)</li> <li>• Concerning structural composition of the draft report</li> </ul>
18th meeting	May 23, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilization of state-of-the-art technology such as on-line remote education in the field of education. (Interviews with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)</li> </ul>
19th meeting	May 27, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech (Interviews with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Financial Services Agency and the National Police Agency)</li> </ul>
20th meeting	June 3, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of various financial services through utilization of FinTech (Interviews with the National Police Agency and the Financial Services Agency)</li> </ul>

#### ■ Task Force for Improvement of Rules Contributing to Diversification of Work Styles

1st meeting	March 8, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews concerning second job, concurrent job and teleworking (Interviews with Professor Kojima of Kansai Gaidai University, Telework Management Inc.)</li> </ul>
2nd meeting	March 22, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews concerning second job, concurrent job and teleworking (Interview with Recruit Works Institute)</li> </ul>
3rd meeting	April 5, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews concerning second job, concurrent job and teleworking (Interviews with Ajinomoto Co., Inc. and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul>

#### ■ Professional Team Meeting

1st meeting	November 28, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning Micatiro tablet containing antihypertensive drug (Interviews with The Japanese Association of Hypertension and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>• Concerning short-term dispatch of nurses (Interviews with Japan Dispatched Nurses Association and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> <li>• Concerning expressions used in notifications and advertisements of foods with function claims (Interviews with Japan Alliance for Health Food Associations, Japan Direct Marketing Association and the Consumer Affairs Agency)</li> </ul>
2nd meeting	January 31, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerning Micatiro tablet containing antihypertensive drug (Interview with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)</li> </ul>

#### ■ Public Discussion

March 11, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of education utilizing state-of-the-art technology</li> </ul>
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