

## Immediate Deliberation Matters

Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform

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The Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform promotes regulatory and institutional reforms from the public's viewpoint, strengthening initiatives to link proposals obtained from the regulatory/administrative reform hotline (so-called red-tape complaint hotline) directly to regulatory and institutional reviews.

As immediate deliberation matters, the Council is working on regulatory reform under the following three pillars.

- Preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus infection and promoting regulatory reform toward a new lifestyle
- Digital transformation of regulations in general toward a digital age
- Regulatory reform toward economic revitalization including rural areas and a return to a growth path

In addition to the above deliberation matters, the Council will move boldly forward with deliberations of regulatory and institutional reforms that will encourage the private sector's vitality and improve the public's lives.

### 1. Immediate implementation of regulatory and institutional reforms from the public's viewpoint

The Council will promptly link the public's voice from the regulatory/administrative reform hotline (so-called red-tape complaint hotline) to regulatory and institutional reviews. Simultaneously, the Council will implement individual measures as soon as possible without waiting for their reports to be compiled.

### 2. Regulatory reform toward preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus infection and a new lifestyle

- (1) Review of regulations on documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements
  - (i) Drastic review of regulations on documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements in administrative procedures
    - The Council will strictly verify the necessity of documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements for all administrative procedures, amending ministerial ordinances and notifications within this year and making a string of legal revisions early next year.
  - (ii) Review of regulations on documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements in the private sector
    - For procedures between private business operators, the Council will also verify and review the necessity of regulations in which documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements are mandated by law.

- (2) Making temporary measures permanent for online medical care/medication guidance and online education
  - Concerning online medical care/medication guidance and online education implemented as temporary measures against the novel coronavirus infection, the Council will make them permanent as institutions matching the digital age. Concerning relaxed standards on permission for occupancy of roads by restaurants and other temporary measures, the Council will also make them permanent.
- (3) Promoting work styles not bound by time and place from the viewpoint of promoting telework
  - Concerning labor-related regulations and institutions such as working time management and working environment, the Council will clarify and flexibly modify the handling and operation of them in guidelines from the viewpoint of promoting telework.

### 3. Digital transformation of regulations in general toward a digital age

Many of Japan's regulations and institutions have not been able to keep up with digital technology advances. Therefore, it is necessary to review regulations and institutions that are hindering the digitization of economic society boldly and meticulously. Furthermore, such regulations and institutions should be modernized immediately so the public can benefit from innovation and added value created with the help of digital technology.

From this perspective, the Council will work on regulatory and institutional reforms such as the following.

- Development of digital business infrastructure
- Reliable and free data distribution
- Leading-edge medical care and long-term care utilizing digital technology
- Integration of broadcasting and telecommunications
- Regulatory reform to promote new business models
- Development of innovative human resources
- Diverse work styles matching employment systems and recurrent education

### 4. Regulatory reform toward economic revitalization including rural areas and a return to a growth path

With the declining birthrate and aging population accelerating, Japan's population will continue to decrease. If we were doing the same thing as before, Japan's economy and society would lose power. We should work hard to realize a society where innovative value can be created by taking nationwide initiatives for revitalizing the economy and through the private sector acting more freely than before. We should return the Japanese economy to a growth path by reviewing regulations and institutions no longer necessary, promoting regional revitalization, and overcoming various issues such as the dwindling population, declining birthrate, and aging population.

From this perspective, the Council will work on regulatory and institutional reforms such as the following.

- Strengthening financial functions to revitalize the local economy and improve international competitiveness
- Revitalizing the local economy by rejuvenating tourism and creating robust agriculture
- Promoting work styles not bound by time and place from the viewpoint of promoting telework (already described above)
- Reviewing regulations and institutions on the precondition of a society of increasing population
- Efficient maintenance and management of social infrastructure
- Reforming logistics to improve productivity