

Special Issue

KIZUNA

New Year
2022

Linking Japan and the World



JAPANGOV
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN



Welcome to KIZUNA, the official magazine of the Government of Japan.

This bold work of calligraphy is 絆 (*kizuna*) written in Japanese. *Kizuna* means the enduring bonds between people—close relationships forged through mutual trust and support.

Originally describing the rope used to tether domestic animals such as horses and dogs, the meaning of *kizuna* has evolved over the years. A passage in *The Tale of the Heike*, compiled in the 13th century, uses the term to refer to the bonds of love between a father and his children. More recently, *kizuna* has gone beyond bonds tying together family and close acquaintances; it is now used in a broader sense of human ties and connections. Of particular note is the *kizuna* born among people during natural calamities, which fosters feelings of solidarity and serves as the underlying strength to overcome hardships.

Similarly, the *kizuna* cultivated among the countries of the world has the power to deepen cooperation for a better future. By reporting on a wide variety of topics concerning Japan, we hope that this magazine will provide opportunities for Japan and the rest of the world to connect and build strong *kizuna*.



KANAZAWA SHOKO
Calligraphy Artist

Born in Tokyo in 1985, she started learning calligraphy from her mother when she was five years old. One of the notable young calligraphers of today, her solo exhibitions have been held throughout the world, in cities such as New York, Singapore, and Prague. She was selected as one of the official poster artists for Tokyo 2020.

CONTENTS

- 04 Carving Out the Future:
A Policy Speech by PM Kishida
- 06 Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio's
Personal Timeline
- 08 Prime Minister's First Overseas Trip:
COP26 World Leaders Summit Statement
- 10 Toward a New Form of Capitalism:
Outline of the Emergency Proposal from
the Council of New Form of Capitalism
Realization
- 12 Economic Measures to Overcome
COVID-19 and Pioneer a New Era
- PORTRAITS OF JAPAN
- 14 Tranquility and Serenity:
A Peaceful Japanese Winter



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<https://www.japan.go.jp/kizuna/>

Special Issue

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New Year 2022

COVER

Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio and President Joe Biden of the United States greet each other with an elbow bump at the COP26 World Leaders Summit held in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

CARVING OUT THE FUTURE:

A POLICY SPEECH BY PM KISHIDA

AN EXCERPT

DECEMBER 6, 2021

Full Text: https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202112/_00002.html



Having received a vote of confidence from the people, I will take on the extremely difficult challenges of overcoming COVID-19 and carving out a new era, together with my fellow members of the Diet and my fellow citizens.

Overcoming COVID-19; economic countermeasures for pioneering a new era

The important thing is to assume the worst-case scenario. In order to respond to the risk of the Omicron variant, we have taken the decision to suspend the entry of foreign nationals, applicable to the entire world. I am prepared to bear all the criticism that, although the situation is still not well understood, this is excessively cautious. We adhere to the position that we will respond in a careful, cautious manner. I made the decision to prepare for a spread of infections, and we have injected government funds at a scale of 13 trillion yen.

At the same time, we will provide careful assistance at a scale of 17 trillion yen to individuals and business operators who are in severely trying situations because of COVID-19.

That said, the world is changing dramatically in terms of digitalization and responses to the issue of climate change. We have injected government funds at a scale of 20 trillion yen, and Japan will take a major step forward towards carving out a new era.

On the basis of this clear idea, we have named these large-scale measures at 55.7 trillion yen in total size the “economic measures to overcome COVID-19 and pioneer a new era.”

Responses to COVID-19

I am determined to restore peace of mind to the public

and protect the lives and health of our citizens to the end.

First, we will ensure that our medical treatment structure is solidly in place, with the next increase in the number of cases firmly in mind.

Second, we will lower the threat of COVID-19 to the greatest possible extent as society as a whole. We will fundamentally strengthen the entire course of progression from prophylaxis and discovery to early treatment by making vaccines, screening, and orally administered therapeutics much more widespread.

The third is preparing a long-running system for responding to infectious disease crises.

Support for economic recovery

Because of COVID-19, we will support through subsidies households that are in difficult economic straits, university students in severe economic circumstances, and households raising children. For business operators, we will vigorously support measures for business revival.

Based on a policy of loosening restrictions on activities through the use of vaccines and testing as a package, we will work to restart socioeconomic activities that are close to normal.

A “new form of capitalism” that carves out our future society

What I aim for once we have overcome the crisis caused by COVID-19 is the realization of a “new form of capitalism.”

The first point is our Growth Strategy. The public and private sectors will together play their roles and collaborate in making bold investments for growth.

(1) Innovation

We will promote innovations achieved through science and technology and increase the economy’s ability to

create added value, while also dramatically strengthening the ecosystem surrounding start-ups. We will also actively undertake university reform and establish a university fund of 10 trillion yen within this fiscal year.

(2) A Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation

The “Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation” will use digitalization to advance the revitalization of local areas and additionally bring about bottom-up growth, moving from our regions to the nation as a whole.

(3) The issue of climate change

As we work towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and realizing a 46 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, we will review restrictions on the maximum introduction of renewable energy while pushing forward with bold investments in the field of clean energy.

(4) Economic security

With a view to further enhancing the resilience of the supply chain and better ensuring the reliability of core infrastructure, we will aim to submit new bills to next year’s ordinary session of the Diet, based on consultations with the ruling coalition.

We will establish Japan’s economic security, and at the same time call in private-sector investment into these fields, thereby realizing economic growth.

Distributions to people are not a cost, but rather an investment towards the future. Through the public and private sectors playing their respective roles together, we distribute the fruits of growth properly. At the same time, stimulating consumption leads to the next round of growth.

The government will take the initiative and raise salaries in fields such as medical nursing, nursing care, child care, and preschool education. Beyond that, we will make all-out efforts to prepare an environment that supports wage increases at private companies.

In order to make investments in human resources more active, we will newly establish a package of measures at a scale of 400 billion yen over three years.

Diplomacy and security

I will visit the United States at the earliest possible date and meet with President Biden for talks, further reinforcing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Working together with like-minded

countries in ASEAN, Europe, and elsewhere, and utilizing the Quad among Japan, the United States, Australia, and India, we will deepen our cooperation towards realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

I am determined to work extensively on maintaining and strengthening the international order, which is based on universal values and rules including dealing with international human rights issues.

In order to protect the lives and livelihoods of the Japanese people, we will realistically examine all options, including possessing what is called “enemy base attack capability,” without excluding any possibilities, and, with a sense of speed, fundamentally reinforce our defense capabilities. Towards this end, over the course of roughly a year we will draw up a new National Security Strategy, National Defense Program Guidelines, and a Mid-Term Defense Program.

To enable us to move even one step closer to a world free of nuclear weapons, we will advance realistic efforts based on trust and cooperation between nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states.

The abductions issue is one of the highest priority issues. We will make all-out efforts to bring about the return of all abductees to Japan at the earliest possible date. Japan seeks to normalize relations with North Korea, through the settling of the “unfortunate past” and the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern with North Korea, such as the abductions, nuclear, and missile issues.

Disaster response

Another important mission for the government is protecting citizens’ lives, property, and livelihoods from disasters. We are strengthening our efforts to prevent and reduce disasters and enhance national resilience.

We will continue to make all-out efforts towards reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake while staying attentive to the voices of those in the disaster-stricken areas.

Conclusion

I am fully convinced that Japan will be able to change significantly by each of us demonstrating our potential to the full and resolutely continuing to take on challenges.

Together, let us carry out our responsibilities to the next generation and carve out a future of Japan in which we can take pride on the global stage. ●

PRIME MINISTER KISHIDA FUMIO'S PERSONAL TIMELINE



On October 4, Kishida conducted his first press conference as prime minister.

July 29, 1957 Born in Tokyo

Kishida was born in Tokyo in the early years of Japan's economic boom—when the country was getting back on its feet after the war—as the son of KISHIDA Fumitake, a government official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (currently the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). His grandfather, KISHIDA Masaki, was a successful department store proprietor who also served as a member of the House of Representatives.

1963 Moves to New York

When his father was assigned to work in the United States, the family moved to New York. Kishida attended a local public elementary school from the first to third grades, where he was impressed by the liberal ambience of the U.S. and learned to respect diversity.



Kishida (top row, second from right) with classmates in Queens, New York.

1973 Student Days

After returning to Japan, Kishida attended public elementary and middle schools before going on to Kaisei Senior High School, a prestigious private academy. He was an enthusiastic member of the baseball team, an experience that taught him the importance of working together as a team. In 1978, he entered the School of Law at Waseda University. When his father ran for the House of Representatives for the first time the following year, Kishida helped him to campaign.



Kishida (center) played second base for his high school team.

1982 Gains Work Experience at a Bank

After graduating, Kishida joined the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan (currently Shinsei Bank). He worked in foreign exchange in Tokyo and was subsequently transferred to the city of Takamatsu in Kagawa Prefecture where his clients included maritime shipping firms. He gained firsthand knowledge of the unfavorable economic reality there by watching small and medium-sized enterprises sometimes founder and fail due to cash-flow problems.

1993

Joins the Political World

Helping his father's campaign and working for a bank awakened in Kishida an urge to serve the people directly by protecting their lives and improving society as a whole. That set him on his way to politics. In 1993, after his father's death, he ran for his father's seat in a district in Hiroshima and won his first political battle. He valued political stumping as a way to speak directly to voters—an approach that broadened his appeal and led to his winning the seat 10 times.



Kishida receives his parliamentary badge after being elected to the House of Representatives for the first time.

2007

Receives First Cabinet Posting

Kishida joined the Cabinet for the first time as a Minister of State for Special Missions, a position in which he took on assignments in various fields including Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Quality-of-Life Policy, and Science and Technology Policy. He became Minister for Consumer Affairs in 2008, a position from which he worked for the establishment of the Consumer Affairs Agency.



Kishida favors a hands-on approach and has visited many places throughout the country.

2012

Appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs

In 2015, Kishida strove for the bilateral agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea regarding the issue of comfort women which was "resolved finally and irreversibly." In 2016, he helped to actualize a visit to Hiroshima by President Barack Obama, the first ever such visit by a sitting U.S. president. Kishida served as Minister of Foreign Affairs consecutively for four years and seven months, making him the longest-serving foreign minister in postwar Japan.



Top: Kishida visited New York in 2016 to attend a G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting as the chair.

Left: Kishida explains the symbolism of the Atomic Bomb Dome to U.S. President Obama.

October 4, 2021

Becomes Prime Minister

Upon winning the election for Liberal Democratic Party president, Kishida was appointed Prime Minister of Japan by an extraordinary session of the Diet. He vowed to lend a sincere ear to the voices of the Japanese people and to conduct politics in an attentive and broad-minded manner.

Kishida filled nearly 30 notebooks in 10 years with comments and appeals from the people of Japan.



His favorite food is Hiroshima-style *okonomiyaki* (Japanese savory pancake). He ate the dish on the day that he was elected to head the Liberal Democratic Party. "I'll never forget how wonderful it tasted," he says.

PRIME MINISTER'S FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP

COP26 WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT STATEMENT

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/100_kishida/statement/202111/_00002.html

On November 2, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio visited Glasgow, the United Kingdom on his first overseas trip to attend the World Leaders Summit of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) and other events.

On that occasion, the prime minister held bilateral summit meetings with the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Viet Nam, and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He also exchanged words with many other heads of state.

In his speech at the World Leaders Summit, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his own determination that Japan would work in full force to take on climate change, a common challenge of humankind. The following is the full text of his speech.



Prime Minister Kishida attended the World Leaders Summit of the COP26 in the UK. There, he pledged to provide up to an additional 10 billion USD in the coming five years to support the decarbonization of Asia and beyond.

At the outset, let me start by commending my friend, Boris, for his leadership in hosting the COP 26.

I have come all the way to Glasgow to convey my own determination that Japan will be working in full force to take on climate change, a common challenge of humankind.

Six years have passed since the adoption of the Paris Agreement. At that time, under the leadership

of then President Laurent Fabius, we had renewed our resolve. We must not forget that very moment. “Fumio, I really want to give this to you.” To this day, I have been keeping and cherishing the gavel that my friend Laurent presented to me as a testament to my own resolution to confront the climate issue seriously.

To achieve our goal, this coming decade will be critical. Together, with high ambitions, let us do all

we can going forward!

“Net-zero by 2050”; Japan will realize this goal under our newly adopted Long-term Strategy.

I assure that Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46% in the fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels, and that Japan will continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emissions by 50%.

Mr. President,

To bring about a decarbonized society, Japan will introduce renewable energy as much as possible, and lead the way in the clean energy transition, with a particular focus on Asia.

Since solar power plays a major role in the transition to renewables in Asia, to help stabilize electrical frequency in the region, converting existing thermal power generations into zero-emission power generation is a necessary path. To this end, Japan, through the Asia Energy Transition Initiative, will develop leading projects worth 100 million USD to transform fossil-fuel-fired thermal power into zero-emission thermal power such as ammonia and hydrogen. Developed countries are collectively committed to the 100 billion USD per year goal of climate finance. However, we have not yet achieved this target. In order to lead the initiative in fulfilling this financial gap, today, I am pleased to announce our additional contribution. Japan announced last June our contribution to provide support worth 60 billion USD, both in public and private finance, in the next five years. On top of that, Japan will provide up to 10 billion USD in the coming five years, which would include our contribution to the launch of Innovative Financial Facility for Climate as we partner with the Asian Development Bank and others to support the decarbonization of Asia and beyond.

Together with Boris, Japan will call on other developed countries to join us in our collective efforts.

Capitalizing on these initiatives, Japan will press onward to undertake efforts toward net-zero emissions in Asia, the engine of global economic growth.

With an aim to realizing a future where vehicles, the world’s essentials, will become zero emission, Japan will take advantage of all the available options of technologies.



Top: At a high-level event on infrastructure and climate change, Prime Minister Kishida said that he would lead the international community’s commitment to achieving a better recovery from COVID-19.

Right: In between the meetings, the prime minister actively engaged in summit diplomacy including talks with President Joe Biden of the United States.



By utilizing our own 2 trillion yen Green Innovation Fund, Japan will develop next-generation batteries and motors, hydrogen, and synthetic fuels, which all hold the key to the spread of electric vehicles.

While spreading the fruits of these innovations across Asia, Japan will spearhead global efforts.

Furthermore, Japan will be participating in the Global Methane Pledge. As we are moving forward in the transition to decarbonization, the ongoing issue of rising energy prices also calls for our joint discussions among leaders to meet the challenge.

For adaptation to climate change, Japan will double our assistance to approximately 14.8 billion USD such as in the area of disaster risk reduction. Concerning global forestry conservation, I hereby announce that Japan will provide financial assistance worth approximately 240 million USD, utilizing advanced technologies and working in collaboration with the international organizations.

No one must be left behind as we confront the issue of climate change. Japan will dedicate all its strength to undertake actions and contribute to the future of humankind.

Thank you. ●

TOWARD A NEW FORM OF CAPITALISM:

OUTLINE OF THE EMERGENCY PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL OF NEW FORM OF CAPITALISM REALIZATION

NOVEMBER 8, 2021

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00001.html

At his inaugural press conference in October 2021, Japan's new prime minister KISHIDA Fumio announced his aim to realize a new form of capitalism.

There is a growing trend around the world to search out a capitalist economy for the new era in which corporations and governments make bold investments, while protecting the middle class—which forms the core of a healthy democracy—and preparing for global-scale crises such as climate change. The new initiative of the Kishida administration aims to take the lead of that global trend, focusing on sustainability and human capital.

The core concepts of the new initiative are “a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution” and “developing a new post-COVID-19 society.” Growth strategy and distribution strategy will work in tandem to realize them.

On November 8, the emergency proposal was formulated by the Council of New Form of Capitalism Realization, which was established to shape a vision toward the realization of a new form of capitalism and translate it into concrete measures. It emphasizes that growth must be realized first—positioning the growth strategy as the trigger for the virtuous circle of growth and distribution—while also stating that the distribution strategy serves as an essential foundation for sustainable growth. The proposal urges Japan to mobilize all possible policies toward the realization of the virtuous cycle of growth and distribution.

* * * * *

Outline of the basic ideas of the emergency proposal

Since the 1980s, a growing emphasis has been placed on short-term shareholder value, resulting in a sluggish growth of the middle class, widening disparities, an increasing burden on subcontractors, and adverse effects on the natural environment and others. Thus, the government, private sector,

universities, local communities, and citizens and consumers should all play their respective roles to solve pending issues. Private companies are requested to enhance their mid- to long-term earning power by strengthening their investments in the future in areas such as human capital, and to achieve sustainable growth by circulating their profits through wage increases and other distributions, as well as through further investment in the future. We are committed to building a sustainable capitalism focused on various stakeholders. While our basic principle is to realize economic growth by utilizing market functions, it is also important for the public and private sectors to work together to create an economy for a new era, with the government providing a supplementary response in areas that are not sufficiently addressed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people's mindset about their work style and lifestyle has changed, with digital transformation—which



Prime Minister Kishida established a Council of the New Form of Capitalism Realization to discuss concrete measures to realize a new form of capitalism.

The emergency proposal was formulated at the meeting held on November 8.



until now had not proceeded very far—suddenly beginning to make rapid progress. Now is the time to reform conventional socioeconomic practices and restrictions as well as institutions to build a new society premised on coexisting with COVID-19.

As a trigger for a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution, it is necessary to realize growth in the first place. We need to promote efforts to realize a science and technology nation, including those for digital transformation (DX) and growth of the green sector toward a solution to the climate change, thereby drastically strengthening our capacity for innovation. We also need to provide comprehensive support for startups as the driver of innovation that will carve out the future of Japan. It is also important to use innovation to solve social issues in a bid to create a highly convenient society and to promote the improvement of productivity in a wide range of industries and enterprises, thereby helping to create of a prosperous middle class.

Our distribution strategy serves as an important foundation for growth. Consumption is expected to increase through distribution to employees in the form of wages, which then stimulates demand, leading to improvement in corporate earnings and sustainable growth. In order to realize growth and distribution at the same time, it is necessary to strengthen investment in people through efforts ranging from those in childcare and early education, to those within companies. We must also respect diversity and inclusivity to create a society where all citizens can participate and play an active role and establish an environment where each individual can create added value.

From such perspectives, Japan should mobilize all possible policies toward the realization of a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution that will then achieve subsequent growth. To this end, it is essential to increase productivity through our growth strategy and to distribute the fruits of that growth in the form of wages to working people, thereby raising the income level of a broad range of citizens.

Issues to be addressed as an utmost priority

The emergency proposal outlines the multiple measures that should now be given utmost priority by the Kishida administration.

Under the growth strategy, the top priority is promoting the realization of a science and technology nation, to which end, a university fund will be established at a scale of 10 trillion yen during the current fiscal year. The second priority is promoting the revival of the dynamism of Japanese companies and providing comprehensive support for startups as the driver of innovation while simultaneously strengthening tax support for large companies assisting startups. The third priority is launching a Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation by implementing digital technology such as telework, drone delivery and autonomous driving, beginning with local regions. The fourth and final priority is promoting economic security. A fund will be established, with innovative technologies to be developed in crucial areas such as artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

Under the distribution strategy, the first course of action will be to provide support to the private sector to strengthen the distribution of wealth. Support will be drastically strengthened within the tax code for companies that raise wages to increase the percentage of the distribution allocated to labor. The second course of action will be to strengthen the distribution function in the public sector. Public prices will be revised to increase the incomes of those working at facilities providing medical nursing, elderly care, childcare services, and the like.

In response to this emergency proposal, the government will make a concerted effort to immediately address the matters outlined. The Council of a New Form of Capitalism Realization will continue to conduct brisk discussions to compile, by next spring, a grand design and an outline of the approaches to substantialize it, and will keep the world informed of its progress. ●

ECONOMIC MEASURES TO OVERCOME COVID-19 AND PIONEER A NEW ERA

NOVEMBER 19, 2021

On November 19, the Japanese government determined new economic measures amounting to a project with a scale of 78.9 trillion yen, accompanied by a fiscal expenditure of 55.7 trillion yen.

Japan's national economy, having suffered damage due to the COVID-19 epidemic, remains beset by numerous difficulties. The number of new infections is on the wane, however, and restrictions on the activities of Japanese people are gradually being eased.

The government will turn this situation into an opportunity and use the momentum of the new measures to restart socioeconomic activity at a near-normal level, as quickly and as early as possible, while still in the COVID-19 era. A "New Form of Capitalism" will be launched to achieve a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution, thereby setting the economy on a self-sustaining growth trajectory.

In order not to lose any of the momentum that Japan has gained so far, the government will adopt all feasible means of risk management to deal with a possible resurgence of COVID-19. In addition, the government will pay close attention to the downside risks that a new wave of infections or a disturbance in supply chains would pose, thus preventing the bottom from falling out of the economy.

The four pillars of the new economic strategy and their economic effects are as follows:

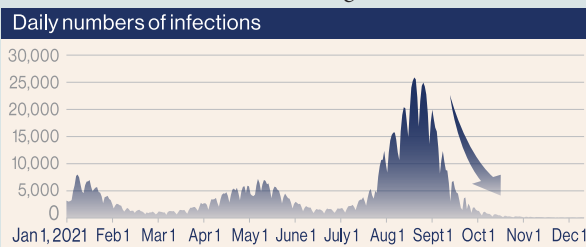
* * * * *

I Prevention of the spread of new coronavirus infections



22.1
trillion yen

In view of the suppressed infection rate due to the increase in vaccinations, the government will reinforce the medical care system, promote further vaccinations, and ensure the procurement of therapeutic drugs. In conjunction with these efforts, the government will disburse cash benefits, in proportion to the scale of operations, to business owners who have suffered a significant impact. Financial aid will also be offered to people in dire circumstances.



II Resumption of socioeconomic activities in a "Live with Coronavirus" environment and preparation for the next crisis



9.2
trillion yen

Vaccines and testing packages will be used to monitor and control the risk of infection spread. To stimulate the resumption of socioeconomic activity, the government will endeavor to boost demand in business sectors that have suffered significant losses due to COVID-19. The government will promote the domestic development of vaccines and therapeutic drugs in preparation for the possible appearance of new variants and/or new infectious diseases. Japan will also contribute to international efforts to end the worldwide spread of COVID-19.

III Launching a “New Form of Capitalism” to carve out a future society



19.8
trillion yen

By growing the economy and distributing the fruits of that growth, Japan will achieve a widespread increase in national income, leading to further economic growth. In order to realize this virtuous cycle of growth and distribution, the government will promote a growth strategy for a post-COVID society by making bold investments toward three primary pillars: the realization of a “science and technology nation,” the launch of a “Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation,” and the attainment of economic security. The government will also implement a distribution strategy that strongly supports the strengthening of distribution in the private sector, as well as bolstering the distributive functions in the public sector.

Regarding the growth strategy, the realization of a “science and technology nation” will include the establishment of a 10-trillion-yen university fund, investment in clean energy, and thorough support for startups. The “Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation” will involve the development of digital infrastructure, the promotion of online administrative procedures, the encouragement of local regions to become the originators of change, the revitalization of agriculture, forestry and fishery industries, along with that of the tourist industry, and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises to enable them to refurbish themselves and improve productivity. Furthermore, a fundamental reinforcement of economic security will provide the nation with autonomy, competitiveness, and indispensability, and ensure that Japan achieves an autonomous economic structure.

The distribution strategy calls for a strong investment in people, thereby bringing security and growth. The measures that the government will undertake include support for pay increases, investment in human capital and work-style reform, increased distribution to non-regular employees, a review of the state of public prices, and support for children and their caregivers. These measures will build a society that leaves no one behind and will strengthen distribution to workers as well as to those who have not benefited from economic growth in the past.

IV Ensuring safety and peace of mind through measures to prevent and reduce disasters and to enhance national resilience



4.6
trillion yen

Measures to prevent and reduce disasters and to enhance national resilience will be taken against storm and flood damage, which has become increasingly catastrophic and frequent due to the effects of climate change, as well as against large-scale earthquakes and tsunamis.

Every effort will be poured into the restoration and reconstruction necessitated by the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011 and other natural disasters, including the torrential rains of summer 2021. Furthermore, as the security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe, the country will resolutely defend its territory, territorial waters, and airspace, as well as the lives and assets of the Japanese people.

Economic effect of the new measures

The smooth and steady application of these measures will strengthen the economy, offset the downside risks, deal effectively with the threat posed by COVID-19, stimulate private-sector demand, and place the economy on a self-sustaining growth trajectory led by that demand.

New expenditures related to the above measures are estimated to support and boost real GDP by approximately 5.6%.



GDP

5.6%
boost



TRANQUILITY AND SERENITY:

A PEACEFUL JAPANESE WINTER

Surrounded by seas, the Japanese archipelago is surprisingly cold in winter, with plenty of snow. Its climate has given birth to fantastical scenery, fostering local, technical solutions.



H_YASUI/GETTY IMAGES

SEA FOG

The Seto Inland Sea is rimmed Honshu and the Island of Shikoku. On cold, bright winter mornings, this long, thin body of water produces a layer of fog when air laden with moisture becomes chilled. Superb views of the phenomenon can be enjoyed from the observatory in Mihara City, Hiroshima Prefecture, looking out over more than 700 islands and islets dotting the fog in a tapestry that never repeats itself, creating a magical fantasy world.



SNOWY GARDEN

Owing to the winds blowing in from the sea, the area facing the Sea of Japan has heavy, moist winter snows. At Kenroku-en Garden (Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture)—one of Japan’s finest with over 300 years of history—numerous pine trees are trussed with rope during the winter, giving extra support to branches laden with the heavy snow. The beautiful conical shapes, produced through traditional wisdom and skill, are topographical poems symbolizing the Japanese winter.



NEW YEAR'S DELICACIES

The Japanese New Year comes with special delicacies. The custom of placing lucky foods in tiered boxes and eating them at seasonal milestone originated as a way of expressing the concept “stacked with luck.” Each of the foods is made with long-lasting ingredients, enabling the entire family to eat leisurely during the New Year holiday period. In that way, Japanese people celebrate the beginning of the year in peace.



Japan. Sharing tomorrow.

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