

Memo on the Discussions of the Parliamentary League for Strengthening and Developing Hubs in Japan (mainly of the 1st meeting, partially of the 2nd meeting and plans for the 3rd meeting)

- 1 ■ **The meeting on December 11, 2008 confirmed the initiation of activities in the name of the Parliamentary League in order to promote hub development in Japan.**
- 2 ■ Members of the 1st meeting on December 11, 2008
(Mainly MP members of DPJ)
Participating members
Noda, Yoshihiko; Nagashima, Akihisa; Koga, Issei; Matsubara, Jin;
Ryu, Hirofumi; Haraguchi, Kazuhiro
Karatsu, Hajime (adviser) Suzuki, Koji (organizer)
Members to whom materials were given together with explanations
Maehara, Seiji; Matsuno, Yoriyoshi; Genba, Koichiro; Edano, Yukio;
- 3 ■ Japan has urgent needs for “lowering distribution and living costs, to maintain resources and resource materials, strengthening local economy, and developing ports and airports as hubs to secure trading conditions to maintain national interests.
To meet these needs, there is a need for enacting the Basic Law for developing hubs.
(The process of enacting the Basic Space Act by non-partisan House members will be followed.)
- 4 ■ League members are considering a draft plan to create a 100-trillion yen market and 3 million employment opportunities. (Prof. Karatsu and Suzuki put forward to the League.)
- 5 ■ “A drastic plan must be implemented to cope with the once-in-a-century economic crisis. The theme of the proposals is appropriate.” (MP Noda, Parliamentary League, 1st meeting)
- 6 ■ “It is a means to revolutionary activate Japan’s economy through developing hubs.” (MP Nagashima, 2nd meeting.)
- 7 ■ Mr. Nobuo Ishihara, former deputy cabinet secretary and collaborator to the Parliamentary League: “I have served as deputy cabinet secretary to seven Prime Ministers, and only one thing that could not have been realized is the development of hubs. I hope that the coming government will realize this with strong political power mobilizing all ministries and with producing competence.”
- 8 ■ The concept of activities:
To enact relevant laws to stimulate consumption, to increase domestic demand and to create employment opportunities driven by upgrading airports and ports as hubs (hub business and hub service business), as well as to make every effort to gain products and effects from the laws.
- 9 ■ Hub Development in Japan means:
 1. The first goal is to increase the pie for economic growth (all kinds of potentiality for growth) by taking in various resources going around the world (people, commodities and materials, services, intellectual resources and energy resources) into the country in the forms of containers and cargos by providing favorable trading conditions.
 2. The second goal is to review the existing systems as well as ways how capital and resources have been used to lead to the development of new industries.
- 10 ■ Goal 1: Participation in hub dynamism in Asia
= Immediate implementation of “hub business” projects
- Stabilize people’s living and industrial growth by lowering distribution and living costs
- Strengthen local as well as national capabilities

- 11■ Goal 2: Creation of new industries to expand consumption and employment opportunities
= Immediate implementation of “hub service business” projects mainly with public funding of Japan and by inviting excellent foreign investors.
 - Hinterland development including hub-related facilities, new energy development, casino complexes, etc.
 - New industries and employment opportunities from among Japanese manufacturers, retailers, service industries and small and medium size corporations

- 12■ The Democratic Party members will first identify the points to be examined, contents and difficulties, and will place the result for discussion in the whole Parliamentary League.
Then the activities for legislation and the implementation of necessary advocacy activities will be carried out in the name of the Parliamentary League. (Confirmed at the 1st meeting.) It was decided that the next meeting would be held in January 2009.

- 13■ At the 2nd meeting, the topic “what prevented the development of hubs in Japan” was discussed.
Speakers: Koji Suzuki and Koichi Sueyoshi, aide to Prime Minister Aso, former Mayor of Kita-Kyushu city.

From his experience of having established a joint venture with PSA, Mr. Sueyoshi clearly stated that it was the political problem that prevented the development of hubs in Japan.

- 14■ MP Yoshimi Watanabe, House of Representatives, former Minister for administrative and regulatory reforms and financial services will be invited as a guest for the 3rd meeting.
MP Watanabe, “Japan that we should build is a country led by politicians. The development of hubs means to do this.”

- 15■ It was affirmed that the Japan-Singapore High Level Organization (provisional) would be established with the cooperation of Singapore in developing hubs and the legislation of the Basic Hub Development Law (provisional) were essential. (1st meeting)

- 16■ In particular, in order to stimulate domestic consumption and to create employment opportunities, the League confirmed the importance of creating new businesses in cooperation with manufacturers, retailers and hub service operators of different scales in Japan with public investments and by inviting excellent investors from overseas. (1st meeting)

- 17■ At the 3rd meeting, it is planned that the Parliamentary League will confirm the implementation of promoting hub development in Japan upon obtaining advice for it from representative government and private sector operators in Singapore and Hong Kong which are ahead of Japan in the development of hubs.