

Summary for the enactment of “the Basic Law to Strengthen Hubs in Japan (provisional)”

1. ■ The Parliamentary League for the Promotion of Developing Hubs in Japan aims to “ensure energy resources and materials,” “to lower logistic and living costs,” and “to create domestic demand and employment opportunities by inviting excellent investors from outside Japan,” after the current global financial crisis originated in the United States.

2. ■ In the process of rapid globalization, environmental and financial problems affect the whole world instantly. In such circumstances, taking in hub dynamism in Japan and ensuring best trading conditions by intensively mobilizing energy resources and investments will enable Japan to strengthen its industrial competitiveness and to upgrade people’s living standards.

3. ■ Investment mobilization for obtaining good trading conditions is considered as a growth resource for countries. It has become a matter of course for developed countries to mobilize investors by introducing casinos and to direct investments into new industries and services such as medical and biotechnical industries, environmental business, new energy development, tourism, education, and financial centers.

4. ■ Japan’s rapid economic growth has been supported by external demand for its manufactured products. However, Japan today is not able to obtain “foreign investments” and “active intelligent resources, services, and other value-added resources” that may help stimulate domestic demand. It is because, as shown in the table below, Japan fails in taking part in growing hub dynamism.
(Table: Japan unable to tap activity resources going around the world)

5. ■ In order for Japan to take part in this “hub dynamism,” and to “enhance industrial competitiveness in the world and the living standard of the nation,” it is imperative to:
 - change conventional practices in all sectors that prevent growth, and review the existing systems,
 - provide opportunities to create new industries from all industrial sectors, and
 - provide incentives to propel growth.In the past, no government was able to put forward policies to realize the above.

6. ■ Instead of struggling to grab a larger portion in the shrinking pie, we need to create an environment where every individual, regardless of age and gender, can choose one's employment freely from among a wider range of professions and occupations in all types of industries in an enlarged pie.

7. ■ In order to promote Japan's hub development effectively and successfully, we must look squarely at reasons for preventing the development of hubs in Japan, and eliminate these factors and develop hubs with strong political will and producing competence.

8. ■ One major focal point to address is the delay and non-proactive attitude of Japan to catch up with the application of international standards of free economic activities in the process of globalization and hub development.
The themes of the 1st WTO ministerial conference were the "liberalization of ports, airports and communications," and the "liberalization of foreign direct investments." However, Japan did not respond to these recommendations. The US government took harbor sanctions against Japan according to the WTO regulations as a symbol to press Japan to rectify its exclusive practices.
The root of the problem lies in the stance that the Japanese government has taken to date as mentioned above.

9. ■ The themes of the 1st WTO ministerial conference serve as important objectives for Japan to develop hubs for the nation to survive after the current global recession. It is considered that the international standards which have become the WTO rules and regulations should be the main points in the proposed Basic Hub Development Act.

Memo :

KOJI SUZUKI Project Producer
and
HAJIME KARATSU Adviser