

Basic Policy for Legislating the Introduction of Casinos in Japan -----

“The concept of the introduction of casinos as part of hub development in Japan, and strategic consideration on casinos in post-global financial crisis.”

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. ■ The introduction of casinos can be considered as a part of “hub dynamism.” Casinos will become a part of the assets derived from the development of hubs, as well as transit resources (activity resources) going around the world (passengers and materials (containers and cargos), investments, services, intellectual resources and energy resources).

5. ■ 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)

Tentative Plan

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6. ■ 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.

7. ■ To introduce casinos supported by the above concept and with public support, casinos should be included as a part of “concrete measures to obtain resources, investments and intellectual properties” within “the hub development strategy to activate Japan’s economy dramatically”(MP Nagashima).

It should not follow the past failures in the tourism development under the Act for Arranging Integrated Recreational Areas (Resort Development Act), and in the development of entertainment-centered amusement/leisure complexes.

Table: Japan unable to tap activity resources going around the world

- Foreign investments/GDP in 2007 (2000)

Japan	2.5% (1.2%)
UK	47.3% (34%)
France	35.0% (17%)
USA	13.5% (30%)
Germany	17.4% (12%)
Australia	32.6% (31%)
Singapore	159%

Annual GDP Growth after the global financial crisis

Oct.-Dec. 2008

Japan	-12.7%
USA	- 3.8%
Europe	- 5.7%
France	- 4.6%
UK	- 5.9%

Container Transship Rates in Asia (2003)

Japan	3.8%
Singapore	80.%
Hong Kong	70.%
Kaohsiung	50.75%
Pusan	41.3%

Transit Rates at Airports in Asia (1999, MoLIT)

Narita	19.0%
Changi	323.7%
Hong Kong	154.1%
Bangkok	78.4%
Seoul	53.1%
Kuala Lumpur	35.6%