

2009 Change of Government

The Democratic Party of Japan's Platform for Government

Putting People's Lives First

The Democratic Party of Japan
www.dpj.or.jp

What will change is your own daily life.

The Five Pledges of the Democratic Party of Japan

1 The End of Wasteful Spending

Rework the national government's 207 trillion yen budget.

Eradicate wasteful spending of tax money and *amakudari* (golden parachuting).

Ban "hereditary" Diet seats and political donations by corporations and other organisations, and eliminate 80 seats in the House of Representatives.

2 Childrearing and Education

Pay a "child allowance" of 312,000 yen per annum for all children until they finish junior high school.

Make high school education effectively free, and make the university scholarship system much more inclusive.

3 Pensions and Medical Care

Issue "pension passbooks" to ensure that no more pensions vanish.

Create a unified pension system and a "minimum guaranteed pension" of at least 70,000 yen a month.

Abolish the Health Insurance Scheme for People Aged 75 and Over, and increase the number of doctors by 50 percent.

4 Regional Sovereignty

Establish "regional sovereignty." As the first step, greatly increase the funds under local governments' independent control.

Create an individual (household) income support system for agriculture.

Revitalise local economies by eliminating highway tolls and fundamentally reviewing all postal businesses.

5 Employment and the Economy

Reduce the corporate tax rate for small- and medium-sized enterprises to 11 percent.

Help job-seekers by paying them a 100,000 yen monthly allowance during job training.

Strongly promote measures to prevent global warming while fostering new industries.

Make Politics Work for People's Lives

A society where each and every person's life matters, a society in which people view others' happiness as their own: that is the fraternal society I wish to build. Ending wasteful spending and using the money instead to rebuild people's lives: that is what a transfer of power to the Democratic Party of Japan will mean.

This may seem mere common sense: people's lives matter, taxes shouldn't be wasted.

And yet that "common sense" has broken down.

Today there are children of single mothers who can't take part in class trips, who can't go to high school. There are seniors who can't go to the doctor when they are ill.

Every day, in this country, over a hundred people take their own lives.

Meanwhile the government is so out of touch with reality that it goes on pouring huge sum of taxpayers' money into construction projects.

What has become of politics in Japan?

True politics means setting priorities in policy-making and in spending. I want a world where politics values people above concrete projects.

I want to approach policy from the perspective of the citizen, not leaving it to the hands of bureaucracy.

I want to create a horizontal society bound by human ties, not a vertically connected society of vested interests.

I want to create a society where everyone can be useful to one another, and everyone can discover their place.

The Democratic Party of Japan's philosophy is "Putting People's Lives First." Based on this new scale of priorities, we will rework the budget and focus the use of taxpayers' money on childrearing and education, on pensions and medical care, on regional sovereignty, and on employment and the economy.

Hope will be born in the hearts of people who no longer feel anxiety about their lives, and their positive spirits will give impetus to the nation as a whole.

I ask you to join with the DPJ in ending an outdated system that is causing people to suffer, and in building a nation where everyone can find fulfillment in their work and in their lives.

The time has come for a change of government.

Yukio Hatoyama

President, Democratic Party of Japan

The Vision of Government in a Hatoyama Administration

Five Principles

Principle 1

From government delegated to the bureaucracy, to politician-led government in which the ruling party holds full responsibility

Principle 2

From a two-track system in which policy-making proceeds in parallel in government and in the ruling party, to a unitary system of Cabinet-centred policy-making

Principle 3

From the ministries' pursuit of their own compartmentalised interests to the pursuit of the national interest led by the Prime Minister's Office

Principle 4

From a vertically organised society of vested interests to a horizontal society bound by human ties

Principle 5

From centralised government to regional sovereignty

Five Policies

Policy 1

We will place a hundred or more Diet members in government posts such as minister, senior vice minister, parliamentary secretary (these three forming the top three positions), and ministerial assistant. With the minister, senior vice minister, parliamentary secretary playing a central role, politicians will take the lead in drafting, coordinating and deciding policy.

Policy 2

Ministers will place importance on their role in Cabinet together with their role at the head of their ministries. Politicians themselves will coordinate difficult issues under Cabinet leadership by making effective use of "Cabinet committees." We will abolish administrative vice ministers meetings and put politicians in charge of decision-making.

Policy 3

We will strengthen the functions of the Prime Ministership, establish a “National Strategy Bureau” reporting directly to the Prime Minister, bring together talented people from both the public and the private sector to shape a national vision for the new era, and formulate the budget framework with politicians taking the lead.

Policy 4

For personnel management of civil servants in executive positions such as administrative vice minister and bureau chief, we will establish a new executive personnel system based on performance evaluations in a context of politician-led decision-making. We will draw up a code of conduct for executive-level government employees.

Policy 5

We will ban all ministry involvement in the placement of civil servants in post-retirement jobs with entities they once oversaw (*amakudari*) and in their movement between such jobs (*watari*). We will establish an “Administrative Reform Council” to completely review administration from the citizen’s perspective; we will scrutinise all budgets and programmes and eliminate waste and abuses. We will review and realign the division of roles between public and private sectors and between central and local governments. We will revise the National Government Organisation Law and build a structure conducive to organisational flexibility.

The DPJ Government will implement its policies in a series of steps.

Order of Implementation of the Platform for Government

- 1) The key policies pledged to the nation in this Manifesto will be implemented through political will.
- 2) We will create new fiscal resources by reforming the status quo that perpetuates wasteful spending.
- 3) We will prioritise the other policies and implement them step by step.
- 4) We will assess policy effectiveness and reflect the findings in the following fiscal year.

Roadmap: Manifesto

By realising our Manifesto, we will increase each household's disposable income and eliminate anxiety over livelihoods.

Item	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Child allowance, childbirth benefit Child allowance of ¥312,000 p.a.; lump-sum childbirth benefit	50% of p.a. child allowance implemented in the first year ¥2.7 trillion	¥5.5 trillion		
Effectively free public high school tuition With equivalent subsidies to private high school students	¥0.5 trillion			
Pension reform Addressing pension record problems; creating a new pension system	Concentrated efforts on record problems (¥0.2 trillion) (National consensus on pension system)		System design	Determining the new system (drafting and enacting legislation)
Renewal of medical care and long-term care Resolving the doctor shortage; emergent influenza countermeasures and related programmes; upgrading pay of long-term care workers	Phased measures to relieve doctor shortage, etc. ¥1.2 trillion		¥1.6 trillion	

Individual (household) income support for agriculture Income support for commercial farm households	Studies; model projects; system design	¥1.0 trillion		
Abolition of provisional tax rates Abolishing or reducing provisional tax rates on gasoline, etc.	¥2.5 trillion			
Elimination of highway tolls Eliminating highway tolls in principle	Stepwise implementation ¥1.3 trillion			
Employment measures Expanding employment insurance to non-regular workers; job-seeker assistance and related measures	¥0.3 trillion	¥0.8 trillion		
Estimated costs	¥7.1 trillion	¥12.6 trillion	¥13.2 trillion	¥13.2 trillion

Measures not listed above (Abolition of the Health Insurance Scheme for People Aged 75 and Over; expansion of university scholarships; raising minimum wage levels; assistance to SMEs, etc.)	To be implemented step by step while securing financial resources	¥3.6 trillion		
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Projected costs in FY 2013: ¥16.8 trillion

1 The End of Wasteful Spending

Taxes do not belong to bureaucrats and political insiders.
We will restore control of taxpayers' money to the people.

Rework the national government's 207 trillion yen budget.
Eradicate wasteful spending of tax money and "golden parachuting."
Ban "hereditary" Diet seats and political donations by corporations and other organisations, and eliminate 80 seats in the House of Representatives.

We will look at what spending is necessary for people's lives, then increase what is necessary and delete what is not.
The budget, realigned according to clear criteria, will help improve your livelihood and your life.

Policies to End Wasteful Spending

We will ban ministry involvement in the job placement of retiring national civil servants, which perpetuates *amakudari* (golden parachuting). We will fundamentally review special accounts, independent administrative institutions, and the work of public service corporations.

We will eliminate bureaucratic collusion with bidders and non-transparent discretionary contracts.

We will reduce the national civil service's total personnel costs by 20 percent.

We will abolish earmarked state subsidies to local governments.

We will ban political donations and purchase of party tickets by corporations and other organisations.

We will ban "hereditary" Diet seats.

We will eliminate 80 proportional-representation seats in the House of Representatives.

Wasteful spending looms large (FY 2009 Supplementary Budget):
Construction of a National Media Arts Center (a state-run "manga café"):
11.7 billion yen
Upkeep of government offices: 2.9 trillion yen

Funding of *amakudari* corporations in the name of “employment measures”:
700 billion yen
Land consolidation programmes of doubtful value: 300 billion yen

We will realign the budget and generate new fiscal resources.

1. We will make the state's 207 trillion yen budget vastly more efficient, eliminating wasteful spending and non-essential, non-urgent programs.

Category	Budget Allocation (FY 2009)	Explanation of DPJ Policies	Cost Savings
Public works	7.9	*Cancel the Kawabe River and Yanba dams. Completely review anachronistic large-scale projects under direct state control. *Build only essential roads after strict cost-benefit analysis.	1.3
Personnel costs	5.3	*Cut personnel costs by various methods including: transfer most administrative functions to local governments as part of decentralisation; review personnel numbers and benefit levels (e.g., allowances and retirement pay) for national civil servants; and (after civil service reform) revise pay scales through labour-management negotiations.	1.1
Government related institutions costs	4.5	*Cut policy implementation and procurement costs by reviewing the payments (approx. ¥12 trillion annually) to independent administrative institutions, special corporations, and public service corporations (all providers of <i>amakudari</i> jobs), and by reviewing government contracts (worth ¥8 trillion annually, about half this amount in discretionary contracts).	6.1
Contracting costs	0.8	*Cut subsidy-related administrative and personnel costs through reforms. Enable low-cost, high-quality government services by allowing standards adapted to local conditions and not imposing national standards excessively.	
Government facility costs	0.8	*Thoroughly review the work of independent administrative institutions, special corporations, and public service corporations, and abolish entities and tasks that exist to provide <i>amakudari</i> jobs, thus reducing subsidies.	
Subsidies	49.0		

Debt repayment and associated costs	79.6	*Costs are almost entirely to fund maturing national debt.	--
Pensions and social insurance payments	46.1	*Cost of paying pensions, medical and employment insurance	--
Transfer, loan and investment funds	9.9		--
Others	2.5	*Fewer Diet seats will mean lower cost of member's salaries. *Stricter budget assessment	0.6
	206.5	Subtotal:	9.1

2. Tax money presently sitting in “buried treasure” funds or idle assets will be put to work for the people.

Target of Reform	Explanation	Amount to become available
Effective use of “buried treasure”	To implement policies, put to work part of the numerous ill-defined “funds” set up in the FY 2009 supplementary budget, and also part of the profits on management of the Fiscal Investment and Loan Special Account and the Foreign Exchange Fund Special Account (estimated combined profits in FY 2008: ¥5 trillion)	4.3
Planned sale of government assets	Sell state-owned assets (such as unused land, employee housing, office buildings, and shares in privatised companies) on a planned basis	0.7
Subtotal:		5.0

3. We will review special taxation measures, among other tax policies.

Create a fair and transparent taxation system	Review all special taxation measures, which lack transparency, and abolish any that are not clearly effective or that have outlived their purpose. Switch from tax exemptions to allowances by abolishing the spouse and dependent income tax deductions and creating a “child allowance.”	2.7
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* The special tax deduction for dependents, tax deductions for the elderly, and tax deductions for disabled persons will be continued. With regard to taxation of pensions, deductions for public pensions and other pensions will be increased, and tax deductions for the elderly will be revived. This will mean that while the tax deductions for spouses will be abolished, the tax burdens of pensioners will be decreased.

New fiscal resources to be realised in FY 2013	16.8
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2 Childrearing and Education

Take the anxiety out of childrearing and create educational opportunity for all.

Pay a “child allowance” of 312,000 yen per annum for all children until they finish junior high school.

Make high school education effectively free, and make the university scholarship system more inclusive.

There are people right here in Japan who cannot afford an adequate education. The Democratic Party of Japan will create educational opportunity for all children.

We will make this a country where one can raise a child with the support of society as a whole.

Policies to Take the Anxiety out of Childrearing and Education

We will pay a lump-sum childbirth benefit of 550,000 yen.

We will pay a “child allowance” of 312,000 yen per annum (26,000 yen per month) for all children until they finish junior high school.

We will make public high school education effectively free, and provide subsidies of from 120,000 yen to 240,000 yen annually for private high school tuition.

For students at universities and tertiary-level vocational training colleges, we will create a scholarship system covering all students who apply.

We will revive the mother-child supplement for unemployed single mothers under the livelihood protection system, and pay a dependent child allowance to single-father as well as single-mother households.

We will aim to eliminate day-care waiting lists by increasing the number of day-care centres, making use of vacant school classrooms and campuses.

Japan’s education budget is slipping.

A growing number of children need financial assistance for their education.

3 Pensions and Medical Care

We will take the anxiety out of pensions, medical care, and long-term nursing care, so that all can live with peace of mind.

Issue “pension passbooks” to ensure that no more pensions vanish.

Create a unified pension system and a “minimum guaranteed pension” of at least 70,000 yen a month.

Abolish the medical care system for people aged 75 and over, and increase the number of doctors by 50 percent.

The first step toward relieving insecurity in our ageing society is to restore confidence in the national government.

We will compensate those affected by vanishing pensions and establish a system whereby every person can receive a pension.

We will provide adequate medical and long-term care services and will value every person’s life.

Policies to Realise Livelihood Security

We will direct a concentrated two-year effort to resolve the problem of “vanishing and erased pensions.”

We will issue “pension passbooks” so that all participants can readily confirm their own premium payments and the benefits to which they are entitled.

We will not allow pension premiums to be used for other purposes.

We will create a unified pension system that ensures a minimum monthly pension of 70,000 yen.

We will cancel the planned social security spending cuts of 220 billion yen.

We will abolish the medical care system for people aged 75 and over and maintain universal health insurance.

We will increase the capacity of medical schools by 50 percent and match the OECD nations’ average ratio of doctors to population. We will also increase the number of nurses and other health care workers.

We will wage intensive campaigns against emergent influenza, cancer, and hepatitis.

We will secure professional long-term care by raising the monthly pay of home helpers and similar workers by 40,000 yen.

The “pension passbook” will show at a glance what you have paid and what you are entitled to receive. You will have your own pension records at your fingertips.

4 Regional Sovereignty

Local affairs will be decided at the local level.
We will create vital and dynamic local communities.

Establish “regional sovereignty.” As the first step, greatly increase the funds under local governments’ independent control.
Create an individual (household) income support system for agriculture.
Revitalise local economies by eliminating highway tolls and fundamentally reviewing all postal businesses.

We will rejuvenate farming, forestry, and fisheries and revitalise both food production and rural communities.
We will lower living costs by abolishing provisional rates for the gasoline tax and other auto-related taxes.
Revitalising the regions will give an impetus to the nation as a whole.

Policies to Revitalise the Regions

Transfer matters that can be handled locally to local governments, while the central government specialises in state-level affairs such as foreign relations and security.

Establish a forum for discussions between the central government and local governments, in accordance with the law.

Abolish all earmarked state subsidies to local governments (except those for social security and compulsory education) and replace these with grants whose use can be freely determined by local governments.

Abolish local contributions to projects under the direct jurisdiction of the central government.

Lower taxes by 2.5 trillion yen by abolishing the provisional rates for taxes on gasoline, light oil delivery, motor vehicle tonnage, and automobile acquisition.

Progressively eliminate all highway tolls, thus revitalising local communities and economies by lowering distribution costs and prices.

Rejuvenate agriculture and improve foodstuff self-sufficiency by creating an individual (household) income support system.

Promote the introduction of income compensation for livestock and dairy farmers and fisheries, and the introduction of direct payments for forestry.

Fundamentally review all postal businesses in order to revitalise local communities.

Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio is too low.

The government itself acknowledges the positive economic effects of eliminating highway tolls.

5 Employment and the Economy

We will support small companies and factories in your community so that you can keep working with a sense of security.

Reduce the corporate tax rate for small- and medium-sized enterprises to 11 percent.

Help job-seekers by paying them a 100,000 yen monthly allowance during job training.

Strongly promote measures to prevent global warming while fostering new industries.

This country's greatest asset is its people.

We will realise a new "economy for human beings" with employment and the environmental sector at its core.

Policies to Foster Employment and the Economy

We will reduce the corporate tax rate for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from 18 percent to 11 percent and review personal guarantees in lending to SMEs.

We will enact a "Law for Preventing Bullying of SMEs" to prohibit such unfair practices as unreasonable demands by major corporations for price reduction and purchases of goods.

We will create a “job-seekers support system” that pays an allowance of up to 100,000 yen a month for the duration of job training.

We will expand regular employment and ban, in principle, the dispatch of temporary workers to manufacturing jobs.

We will aim to achieve a national average minimum wage level of 1,000 yen per hour, while assisting SMEs.

We will realise equal treatment such that people doing the same work at the same workplace can receive the same wage, and we will promote work-life balance.

We will establish an emissions trading market and study the introduction of global warming taxes, with the aim of reducing CO₂ emissions by 25 percent (from 1990 levels) by 2020.

We will foster new industries while combatting global warming by subsidising the purchase of solar panels, “green” vehicles, and energy-saving appliances.

Japan’s economic growth strategy

We will increase the disposable income of households and encourage consumption, by introducing such policies as a child allowance, free high school education, abolition of highway tolls, and abolition of provisional tax rates. These measures will change the Japanese economy to one centered on domestic demand, and will make stable economic growth possible.

The development and proliferation of the latest technologies such IT, biotechnology, and nanotechnology will be supported. Strong government support will be given particularly to measures against global warming in order to further enhance Japan’s advanced technical skills in this area and to nurture the environment-related sector as a future growth industry.

The agricultural, forestry and fishery industries, and the medical and nursing care industries are new growth industries. Providing an individual household income support allowance for farmers, improving working conditions for people in the medical and nursing care sectors, and other measures will be taken to enhance attractiveness and growth potential of these industries, and nurture them so that they become industries that create large-scale employment.

Contribute to the World through Proactive Diplomacy

Develop proactive foreign policy strategies and build a close and equal Japan-U.S. alliance.

Establish intra-regional cooperative mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of building an East Asian Community.

Ensure that North Korea halts development of nuclear weapons and missiles, and make every effort to resolve the abduction issue.

Play a proactive role in UN peacekeeping operations, liberalisation of trade and investment, and the fight against global warming.

Take the lead to eradicate nuclear weapons, and remove the threat of terrorism.

Manifesto: Detailed Policies The Democratic Party of Japan's Platform for Government

The Democratic Party of Japan pledges itself to deliver government that puts "People's Lives First" by implementing the following main policies swiftly and surely. The detailed policies in this manifesto are a specific prescription for ending the waste of taxpayers' money and opening the way to the Japan of tomorrow.

I. Wasteful Spending

1. *Review all existing policies and expenditures*

[Policy Objectives]

Put an end to the vested interests of *zoku giin* (Diet members representing special interests) and "Kasumigaseki" (the central bureaucracy), interests that have become entrenched over the decades of LDP rule.

Reduce the costs of government policy implementation and procurement.

[Specific Measures]

Scrutinise all government policies and expenditures in an "Administrative Reform Council" (provisional title), calling on outside opinions and on-the-spot inspections.

Review methods of policy implementation and procurement with a view to cost savings.

Freeze or cancel non-essential, non-urgent, and poorly performing projects. Take these decisions on the responsibility of elected politicians.

2. *Conduct a zero-based review of special accounts, independent administrative institutions, and public service corporations*

[Policy Objectives]

Achieve fiscal transparency and strengthen public trust in government.

Eliminate waste of taxpayers' money.

[Specific Measures]

Conduct a zero-based review of special accounts and cancel all non-essential items.

Pursue a fundamental review of the role of independent administrative institutions—including whether they should even exist—on the principle that those of their operations that are unnecessary or that can be performed by the private sector will be abolished, while those that need to remain in the public sector will be directly undertaken by the government.

As a general rule, abolish all public service corporations, which amount to *amakudari* (golden parachuting) destinations for retired civil servants. Review all contractual relationships with public service corporations.

3. Regularise government contracts

[Policy Objectives]

Eliminate waste of taxpayers' money by reducing the costs of government policy implementation and procurement.

Open up the government's procurement process, widening opportunities for more citizens to participate.

[Specific Measures]

Extend the scope of the Act on Elimination and Prevention of Involvement in Bid Rigging, Etc. and Punishments for Acts by Employees that Harm Fairness of Bidding, Etc. to cover retired civil servants.

Mandate thorough disclosure of government's discretionary contracts and designated bidding.

Establish a "Government Procurement Oversight Commission" to review contracts retroactively and take corrective action.

4. Fundamentally reform the civil service

[Policy Objectives]

Restore confidence in civil servants.

Regularise administrative costs.

Recognise the rights of public employees as workers and attract outstanding human resources to the civil service.

[Specific Measures]

Steadily implement reforms under the framework of the Basic Act for National Civil Service Reform (2008), including merit- and achievement-based evaluations and a new system of executive positions under the unified control of the Cabinet.

Develop an environment allowing all national civil servants to remain at their posts until retirement, and ban involvement of central government ministries in the job placement of retiring national civil servants, which is a cause of *amakudari* (golden parachuting).

Reduce the national civil service's total personnel costs by 20 percent, both by transferring administrative functions to local governments as part of decentralisation, and by reviewing personnel numbers and benefit levels (such as allowances and retirement pay) for national civil servants.

Restore fundamental labour rights to civil servants and create a mechanism for labour-management pay negotiations, as in the private sector.

5. *Fundamentally review the relationship between government and the bureaucracy*

[Policy Objectives]

Restore true democracy by establishing an administration controlled by politicians.

[Specific Measures]

The hundred or more Diet members from the ruling party who hold government posts such as minister, senior vice minister, and parliamentary secretary will have real responsibility for drafting and deciding the policies of the central government ministries and agencies.

Ensure transparency by for example disclosure of contacts between politicians and bureaucrats.

6. *Ban political donations by corporations and other organisations, and put an end to "hereditary" Diet seats*

[Policy Objectives]

End public distrust of politics.

Create an environment allowing talented people from a wide variety of backgrounds to enter politics.

[Specific Measures]

Amend the Political Funds Control Law to prohibit, after an interim period of three years, all political donations and purchase of party tickets by corporations and other organisations.

As an interim measure, ban political donations and purchase of party tickets by companies and other entities that have a contractual relationship worth 100 million yen or more per contract with the national government or a local authority.

Implement reform of the tax system to promote the spread of individual political donations.

The Democratic Party of Japan has adopted an internal rule forbidding spouses or relatives (up to the third degree of kinship) of incumbent Diet members from running consecutively for office from the member's electoral district.

Prohibit by law the transfer of political fund management organisations to relatives.

Lift the ban on Internet election campaigning while taking measures to deter abuses such as libel and defamation, and establishing penalties for use of a false identity.

7. Reduce the number of Diet seats

[Policy Objectives]

Adopt an electoral system that makes it easier to realise changes of government, while pushing forward administrative and fiscal reforms.

[Specific Measures]

Eliminate 80 proportional-representation seats in the House of Representatives. Reduce the number of seats in the House of Councillors by a corresponding ratio as part of a fundamental reform of the electoral system.

8. Make it clear how every yen of tax money is spent

[Policy Objectives]

Make it clear, and allow the public to check, how every yen of tax money is spent.

Reflect the settlement of accounts in the budget and carry out thorough policy assessment.

[Specific Measures]

Disclose the budget compilation process to the public, in principle, and maintain strict control over implementation.

Disclose full information on the settlement of accounts and link it more closely to the budget by bringing forward the submission date.

For both general and special accounts, require by law that financial statements comparable to those used in corporate accounting be prepared and submitted to the Diet.

9. Create a fair and simple tax system

[Policy Objectives]

Eliminate all vested interests in the taxation system.

Review the effectiveness of special taxation measures and make the tax system more transparent and trustworthy.

[Specific Measures]

Clarify the scope of special taxation measures and create a mechanism for reviewing their effectiveness.

Abolish any special taxation measures that are not clearly effective or that have outlived their purpose. Retain those that are genuinely necessary as permanent, not “special,” measures.

II. Childrearing and Education

10. Lighten the economic burden of childbirth

[Policy Objectives]

Cover almost all expenses related to childbirth.

[Specific Measures]

Review the current lump-sum childbirth benefit (420,000 yen from October 2009) paid under the health insurance scheme, and provide a childbirth benefit of up to 550,000 yen by adding a government subsidy.

Strengthen the system for providing information and consultation for infertility treatment. Support measures will be fortified, with consideration given to having medical insurance cover treatment known to have an effect on infertility symptoms.

[Cost: Approximately 200 billion yen]

11. *Create a “child allowance” of 312,000 yen per annum*

[Policy Objectives]

Provide the support of society as a whole for the upbringing of every one of the children who will support the society of the future.

Reduce the economic burden of childrearing and create a society in which people can have children and bring them up with peace of mind.

[Specific Measures]

Create a “child allowance” of 312,000 yen per annum (26,000 yen per month) for all children until they finish junior high school (half this sum in FY 2010 and 2011).

Switch from tax exemptions, which favour those on relatively-high incomes, to allowances and similar provisions that favour middle- and low-income families.

[Cost: Approximately 5.3 trillion yen]

12. *Make public high school education effectively free, and reduce the financial burden of private high school tuition*

[Policy Objectives]

Create a society in which all motivated high school and university students, regardless of their family situation, can concentrate on their studies with peace of mind.

[Specific Measures]

Provide households that have a student in public high school with subsidies equivalent to tuition costs, thereby effectively making tuition free.

Provide households that have a student in private high school with subsidies from 120,000 to 240,000 yen annually.

For students at university and other tertiary institutions, create a scholarship loan system covering all students who apply.

[Cost: Approximately 900 billion yen]

13. *Revive the additional living support allowance paid to single-mother households and pay a dependent child allowance to single-father households also*

[Policy Objectives]

Support the independence of single-parent families.

[Specific Measures]

Revive the additional living support allowance paid to single-mothers (without employment) abolished in FY 2009.

Pay a dependent child allowance to single-father as well as single-mother households.

Abolish the system of reductions in the dependent child allowance for persons receiving the allowance for more than 5 years.

Draw up comprehensive assistance policies including facilitation of working from home, preferential access to subsidised day care, and enforcement of child support orders after divorce.

[Cost: Approximately 50 billion yen]

14. *Eliminate day care waiting lists*

[Policy Objectives]

Unify all child-related policy measures, which are presently divided among a highly segmented bureaucracy, and create an environment for high-quality day care.

[Specific Measures]

Increase the number of branches of licensed day care centres by making use of surplus classrooms and vacant campuses of elementary and junior high schools.

Increase the numbers of accredited home day care providers and licensed day care centres.

Study the creation of a “Ministry for Children and Families” (provisional title).

15. Provide a high-quality education to all

[Policy Objectives]

Enhance the educational environment in schools, improve the quality of teachers and increase their numbers.

[Specific Measures]

Enhance the educational environment in schools so that every individual is guaranteed an appropriate and optimal education, and rectify educational disparities.

Fundamentally review the teacher certification system in order to improve teacher quality. Extend the teacher training programme to six years (master’s degree) and improve pre-service and in-service training.

Increase the number of teachers and create an environment allowing them to concentrate on teaching, to ensure adequate face-to-face time with children.

To forge deeper bonds of trust among parents and guardians, schools, and the community, place the governance of public elementary and junior high schools in the hands of “School Boards of Trustees,” whose membership will be drawn from among parents and guardians, local residents, school officials, and experts in education.

Fundamentally review the current Board of Education system and create “Education Supervisory Boards” in charge of rigorously monitoring all aspects of education administration.

Place school counsellors in all elementary and junior high schools to provide counselling on daily life and vocational guidance.

Promote the establishment of centres involved in communication education, to produce creative people able to work in partnership with others of diverse values in the international community.

[Cost: Approximately 60 billion yen]

III. Pensions and Medical Care

16. *Provide lump-sum compensation to all persons affected by missing pension records, acting without delay and according to uniform criteria*

[Policy Objectives]

Proceed as rapidly as possible with compensation to all those affected by pension record problems.

Prevent recurrence of problems in pension records.

Restore people's confidence in the public pension system.

[Specific Measures]

Direct a concentrated two-year effort, in the form of a national project, to resolve the problem of "vanishing and erased pensions."

Simplify the correction procedure for beneficiaries and others whose pension records are likely to contain errors.

Promptly start collating all computerised and non-computerised pension records.

Sharply reduce the time needed for receiving the correct pension amount after correction of pension records.

Issue "pension passbooks" to all participants to allow easy confirmation of one's own pension records (including the monthly income amount).

[Cost: Approximately 200 billion yen]

17. *Ban the use of pension premiums for other purposes*

[Policy Objectives]

Restore peoples' confidence in the public pension system.

Raise the level of pension payments to the extent possible by banning the use of premiums for other purposes.

[Specific Measures]

Mandate by law that pension premiums will be used solely to pay pension benefits.

[Cost: Approximately 200 billion yen]

18. *Create a unified and fair pension system*

[Policy Objectives]

Restore peoples' confidence in the public pension system.

Create a pension system that is transparent and easy to understand, one that suits this era of increasing employment mobility and the like.

Create a system that ensures a minimum monthly pension of 70,000 yen, providing a stable livelihood in old age and peace of mind during one's working years.

[Specific Measures]

Enact a law by 2013 to create a pension system with the following outline:

[Outline of Pension System]

Unify all pension programmes, without exception, into a single system to which everyone subscribes, thereby doing away with cumbersome procedures when changing jobs.

Create an "income-proportionate pension programme" where all people earning the same income pay the same premiums, and where benefits are computed on the basis of premiums paid.

Create a "minimum guaranteed pension" programme funded by consumption taxes so that everyone can receive pension benefits of at least 70,000 yen. "Minimum guaranteed pension" benefits will be reduced for persons eligible for "income-proportionate pension" benefits above a certain threshold.

19. *Reduce pensioners' tax burden*

[Policy Objectives]

Reduce the tax burden of pensioners to stabilise the livelihood of the elderly.

[Specific Measures]

Return the tax deduction for public pension premiums to its previous guaranteed minimum level of 1.4 million yen.

Reinstate the 500,000 yen tax deduction for the elderly.

[Cost: Approximately 240 billion yen]

20. *Create a Revenues Agency*

[Policy Objectives]

Eliminate structural tendencies to waste pension premiums.

Reduce non-payment of pension premiums.

[Specific Measures]

Integrate the Social Insurance Agency with the National Tax Agency to form a “Revenues Agency” responsible for the integrated collection of taxes and social security premiums.

To facilitate monitoring of income, introduce a unified serial number system for both taxation and social security.

21. *Abolish the Health Insurance Scheme for People Aged 75 and Over, and maintain universal health insurance*

[Policy Objectives]

Raise public confidence in the health care system by abolishing the discriminatory separate system for older people.

Maintain a universal health insurance system by integrating the various public health insurance schemes under unified management.

[Specific Measures]

Abolish the Health Insurance Scheme for People Aged 75 and Over and repeal the relevant legislation, with government subsidising any resulting additional costs to the national health insurance system.

Gradually integrate the national health insurance system and employees' health insurance systems, working toward unified management of a regional health insurance system in the future.

[Cost: Approximately 850 billion yen]

22. Stop the collapse of the medical system and make high-quality medical services available to everyone

[Policy Objectives]

Make high-quality medical services available to everyone on a stable basis by increasing the numbers of health care workers and improving their quality.

Relieve public anxiety by restructuring the system in areas that are under particular pressure, such as emergency care, obstetrics, paediatrics, and surgery.

[Specific Measures]

Cancel the policy pursued by the LDP-New Komeito government that calls for social security spending cuts of 220 billion yen. Increase medical fees (proportion of treatment costs allocated to the institution concerned) for in-patient treatment at medical institutions that make efforts to increase the number of health care workers (especially doctors and nurses).

Increase the capacity of medical schools by 50 percent with the goal of matching the OECD average for the number of doctors per capita.

Restore hospital operating grants to previous levels, in order to rehabilitate hospitals, including those affiliated to national universities.

Fundamentally review regional medical care plans and provide assistance to restructure the system in such areas as emergency care, obstetrics, paediatrics, and surgery.

Extend no-fault compensation for medical accidents to all fields of medicine, including obstetrics, and establish this as a public system, so that pregnant women can give birth, and patients and providers receive and provide treatment free of anxiety.

[Cost: Approximately 900 billion yen]

23. Prepare fully for new types of influenza and other pandemics, and step up the fight against cancer and hepatitis

[Policy Objectives]

Minimise the impact of new types of influenza.

Improve support measures for people with cancer, hepatitis, and other diseases that place an especially heavy burden on the patient.

[Specific Measures]

Restructure the crisis management and information sharing systems for new types of influenza. Conduct a complete review of the guidelines and related legislation, and improve the diagnostic, advisory, and treatment system. Improve the vaccination system in place.

Raise cancer screening rates by such measures as improving access to preventive screening and diagnostic tests for breast and cervical cancer. Promote voluntary vaccination against cervical cancer. Train cancer specialists including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and pathologists.

Under the existing high-cost medical care benefit system, reduce the financial burden on patients undergoing long-term treatment.

Adopt a 10,000 yen cap on monthly co-payments by hepatitis patients receiving interferon treatment. Take steps to stabilise the livelihoods of hepatitis patients who take leaves of absence from work for treatment, and provide financial support for treatments other than interferon.

[Cost: Approximately 300 billion yen]

24. Support atomic bomb victims

[Policy Objectives]

Expedite support for atomic bomb victims.

[Specific Measures]

To expedite support for atomic bomb victims, who are becoming increasingly elderly, create a new certification system for atomic bomb diseases that takes into account radiation exposure levels.

Upgrade health management support for all atomic bomb victims, including those of the second generation and those living abroad.

25. Raise wages of long-term care workers by 40,000 yen monthly

[Policy Objectives]

Provide good-quality long-term care services to all elderly persons who need such care, wherever they are located.

Reduce shortages in long-term care services by securing the necessary number of beds for long-term care as well as the necessary number of group homes and similar facilities.

[Specific Measures]

Upgrade medical fees (proportion of care costs paid to care facilities) for licensed enterprises providing long-term care and increase wages of long-term care workers by 40,000 yen monthly.

Freeze the plan to reduce the number of beds for long-term care for the present, and secure the necessary number of beds.

[Cost: Approximately 800 billion yen]

26. Repeal the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act and fundamentally reform the welfare system for persons with disabilities

[Policy Objectives]

Create a society in which persons with disabilities can lead normal lives as members of the community.

[Specific Measures]

Repeal the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act and enact a "Comprehensive Act concerning the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities" (provisional title) that does not allow individuals to slip through cracks in the system, and that applies the ability-to-pay principle to the use of services.

Establish a Cabinet-level "Headquarters for Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with Disabilities" in order to direct an integrated and concentrated effort toward policy reform in this area and to prepare the domestic legislation necessary for Japan to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[Cost: Approximately 40 billion yen]

IV. Regional Sovereignty

27. Dismantle and reorganise Kasumigaseki (the central bureaucracy) and establish regional sovereignty

[Policy Objectives]

Fundamentally reform the centralised system of government that has continued since the Meiji Restoration and transform Japan into a “nation based on regional sovereignty.”

Ensure that the central government focuses exclusively on national matters. Change to an equal and cooperative relationship between the central government and local autonomous bodies, instead of the present relations of superior to inferior, dominant to subservient. Ensure that local governments can provide administrative services that match local conditions.

Revitalise the regions by rebuilding local industry and expanding employment.

[Specific Measures]

Review all administrative functions in the “Administrative Reform Council” (provisional title) to be newly formed. Wherever possible, transfer the authority and fiscal resources for administrative functions to the basic units of local government.

Establish a forum for discussions between the central government and local governments, in accordance with the law.

Abolish all tied state subsidies to local governments and replace these with “lump-sum grants” whose use can, in principle, be freely determined by local governments. Secure the sums necessary for compulsory education and social security.

Introduction of “lump-sum grants” will improve fiscal efficiency and obviate the subsidy application process, thereby reducing personnel expenses and other expenses related to subsidy application.

28. Abolish local government contributions toward the costs of the national government's regional offices and projects under the direct jurisdiction of central government

[Policy Objectives]

Eliminate overlapping administration by central and local governments. Put local governments in charge of matters that can be handled at the local level.

Increase the funds that local governments can use freely, thereby allowing them to respond appropriately to local needs.

[Specific Measures]

In principle, abolish regional offices of the national government.

Abolish the system of local contributions to all projects under the direct jurisdiction of the central government, including roads, river improvement, and dams, thereby eliminating approximately 1 trillion yen in costs to local governments. The local allocation tax will not be reduced as a result.

29. Abolish auto-related provisional tax rates that have outlived their purpose

[Policy Objectives]

Restore public confidence in the tax system by abolishing provisional tax rates that no longer have a rationale.

The resulting 2.5 trillion yen tax reduction will contribute significantly to protecting people's livelihoods. In particular, it will reduce the tax burden in areas where there is a high degree of dependence on automobile transport.

[Specific Measures]

Lower taxes by 2.5 trillion yen by abolishing the provisional rates for taxes on gasoline, light oil delivery, motor vehicle tonnage, and automobile acquisition.

In the future, combine the gasoline tax and light oil delivery tax into a single "global warming countermeasure tax" (provisional title), combine the motor vehicle tonnage tax with the motor vehicle tax, and abolish the automobile acquisition tax to avoid double taxation on a purchase to which consumption tax also applies.

[Cost: Approximately 2.5 trillion yen]

30. Revitalise local economies by eliminating highway tolls in principle

[Policy Objectives]

Lower living costs by lowering distribution costs.

Facilitate the transport of goods from production to consumption centres, and revitalise local economies.

Increase the number of entrances and exits on highways to promote the effective use of existing social capital and to reduce economic loss due to congestion.

[Specific Measures]

Implement such measures as stepwise expansion of toll discounts, and while assessing their social impact, proceed with the progressive elimination of all highway tolls.

[Cost: Approximately 1.3 trillion yen]

31. *Revitalise agricultural, forestry, and fishing communities through an individual (household) income support system*

[Policy Objectives]

Revitalise agricultural, forestry, and fisheries communities by transforming them into the “sixth sector” (incorporating primary, secondary, and tertiary functions, i.e., stages from production through processing and distribution).

Aim to achieve complete self-sufficiency for staple grains.

Facilitate the continuation of farm management, including small farms, to maintain the rural community environment.

Revitalise the diverse functions of rural communities, including land conservation, watershed protection, water purification, and greenhouse gas absorption.

[Specific Measures]

Provide individual (household) income support to commercial farming households based on the difference between production costs and market prices for agricultural and livestock products.

Provide additional income support based on scale of operation, quality of products, environmental protection, and transition from rice to other crops.

Introduce income support systems for livestock and dairy farmers and for fisheries, based on the system for crop growers.

Introduce a “direct payment system for forest management and environmental conservation,” consisting of grants to forest owners to cover the costs of thinning and other forest maintenance work.

[Cost: Approximately 1.4 trillion yen]

32. *Ensure food safety and security*

[Policy Objectives]

Establish a system to ensure that people can consume safe foods with confidence.

Carry out a complete review of the food safety administration.

[Specific Measures]

Establish a foodstuff traceability system allowing the production, processing and distribution history of food products to be easily verified.

Expand mandatory labelling of place of origin of raw materials to include all processed food items.

Post "International Food Inspectors" (provisional title) in all major countries exporting food products to Japan and strengthen the import inspection and quarantine system.

Reinstate government subsidies for inspection of all cattle to prevent BSE. Respond to violations of conditions on import of beef products with an immediate total ban on importation.

Establish a Food Safety Agency to unify foodstuff risk management functions that are currently divided between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Simultaneously strengthen the functions of the Food Safety Commission.

[Cost: Approximately 350 billion yen]

33. *Fundamentally review all postal services*

[Policy Objectives]

The current framework for postal services is subject to numerous serious problems such as: convenience for the people is deteriorating, financial services may become unavailable in local communities, and the future management of the four postal service corporations is uncertain. All postal businesses will be fundamentally reviewed with the purpose of protecting the rights of the people with regard to postal services, preserving the living environment of the people and revitalising local communities.

[Specific Measures]

Enact a law (Act Concerning the Freezing of Sales of Japan Post Shares) as soon as possible to freeze the sales of shares of Japan Post, Japan Post Bank, and Japan Post Insurance.

Investigate the status of the services and management of the four Japan Post related corporations and review the “four-way divestiture of postal services” that was carried out in the absence of public engagement. Re-establish systems ensuring fair and convenient access to post office services everywhere throughout the country.

In this process, ensure that post offices can provide the three postal services in an integrated form. Consider the form of the Japan Post related corporations, including ownership of shares, and institute reforms designed to improve the convenience and public benefits of postal services.

34. Realise a society in which citizens contribute to the public good

[Policy Objectives]

Realise a society in which citizens contribute to the public good.

Support the activities of the nonprofit (NPO) sector, especially specified nonprofit corporations.

[Specific Measures]

Review the system of specified nonprofit corporations, expand tax deductions for donations, simplify the eligibility procedure, and reduce the time taken to screen applications.

Recognise the positive role played by NGOs in international cooperation and strengthen partnerships with these organisations.

[Cost: Approximately 10 billion yen]

V. Employment and the Economy

35. Reduce taxes on small- and medium-sized enterprises

[Policy Objectives]

Strengthen the foundation of the Japanese economy by supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their operators.

[Specific Measures]

Reduce the corporate tax rate for SMEs from the current 18 percent to 11 percent.

Abolish the restrictions on executives' salary deductions in "individually owned companies" (special family-controlled corporations).

[Cost: Approximately 250 billion yen]

36. *Provide comprehensive support to SMEs, including adoption of an SME Charter*

[Policy Objectives]

Government ministries must make a concerted effort to implement SME-related measures to revitalise the SMEs that constitute the foundation of the Japanese economy.

[Specific Measures]

Adopt an SME Charter whose action guidelines include: upgrading human resources development for the next generation, creating a fair market environment, and facilitating SME financing.

Provide financial support to facilitate adoption of new minimum wage levels by SMEs.

Enact a new "Law for Preventing Harassment of SMEs" to prohibit such unfair practices as unreasonable demands by major corporations for price reduction, purchases of goods, and the provision of gratis services.

Take measures to prevent denial and retraction of loan credits by lending institutions and revive the easy-to-use Special Credit Guarantee programme.

Eliminate the need for all personal guarantees in lending to SMEs by government-related financial institutions.

Review the joint and several liability system (which has led to many suicides) with a view to its possible abolition.

Enact a "Law for Facilitating Local Financing," mandating financial institutions to disclose information concerning their contribution to local communities and the status of their loans to SMEs.

Develop a fair market environment by strengthening and expanding the functions and capabilities of the Fair Trade Commission.

Aim for “one million start-ups” by introducing comprehensive measures to support entrepreneurship, including a system to promote technology development by SMEs.

37. Support job seekers by creating job training programmes with a monthly allowance of 100,000 yen

[Policy Objectives]

Create a “secondary safety net” between employment insurance and livelihood protection.

Make it easier to receive job training by paying trainees an allowance.

[Specific Measures]

Pay a per diem “skills development allowance” for the duration of job training to persons whose unemployment benefits have expired, part-time and contract workers ineligible for employment insurance, and formerly self-employed persons,.

[Cost: Approximately 500 billion yen]

38. Extend employment insurance coverage to all workers

[Policy Objectives]

Strengthen the safety net and provide people with a greater sense of security.

Strengthen the fiscal base of employment insurance and adapt it to diversifying forms of employment.

[Specific Measures]

Extend employment insurance coverage to all workers.

Restore the portion of employment insurance funded by the national treasury to one-fourth, which is the basic principle of the law.

Allow people who have become unemployed to obtain, for a one-year period, medical insurance at premiums similar to those they paid while employed.

[Cost: Approximately 300 billion yen]

39. *Stabilise the employment of temporary workers, in particular by banning in principle dispatches to manufacturing jobs*

[Policy Objectives]

Rectify the excessive deregulation of employment and stabilise workers' livelihoods.

Maintain Japan's future national strength by improving the quality of the workforce and promoting continuity in the transmission of technology and skills.

[Specific Measures]

Ban, in principle, the dispatch of temporary workers to manufacturing jobs. (Introduce a dispatch system limited to certain skilled occupations.)

In categories other than these skilled occupations, provide employment stability for temporary workers by granting them regular employee status.

Ban temporary employment contracts of two months or less. Also ban, in principle, [dispatch of day labourers and "spot dispatch."]

Establish the principle of equal treatment for dispatched workers and other workers at the same workplace.

Create a "deemed direct employment" system allowing temporary workers to notify the receiving enterprise that the enterprise is deemed to be their employer, for example, in cases where the time limit for employing temporary workers has been exceeded.

40. *Raise minimum wage levels*

[Policy Objectives]

Provide support for escaping the dilemma of the "working poor" so that hardworking people will be able to earn a living.

[Specific Measures]

Carry out fact-finding studies of poverty and address the issues.

Define the minimum wage level, in principle, as "living expenses sufficient to support a worker and his/her family."

Establish a national minimum wage level (estimated at 800 yen) applicable to all workers.

While taking economic conditions into account, aim to achieve a national average minimum wage level of 1,000 yen.

Implement fiscal and financial measures to facilitate adoption of new minimum wage levels by SMEs.

[Cost: Approximately 220 billion yen]

41. Achieve work-life balance and equal treatment of all workers

[Policy Objectives]

Aim to realise work-life balance, enabling all workers, according to their individual priorities and needs, to achieve harmony between meaningful work and a fulfilling personal life.

[Specific Measures]

Realise equal treatment such that people doing the same work at the same workplace can receive the same wage, regardless of gender and regular or irregular status.

Strengthen efforts to prevent deaths (including suicides) due to overwork and to eradicate workplace accidents.

42. Strongly promote measures to prevent global warming

[Policy Objectives]

Cooperate with the international community to stop global warming and to pass on a healthy environment to future generations.

Aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 25 percent (from 1990 levels) by 2020 and by more than 60 percent (from 1990 levels) by 2050.

[Specific Measures]

Play a leadership role in environmental diplomacy and encourage the participation of major emitter nations, including the United States, China, and India, in the “post-Kyoto” international framework for greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Establish an effective domestic emissions trading market using the cap-and-trade formula.

Study the introduction of global warming taxes. Ensure that the system's design does not impose an excessive burden on particular industries, while taking local public finances into consideration.

Promote the visualisation of carbon dioxide emissions through such measures as providing information on emission amounts in the supply and sale of home appliances.

43. Introduce a fixed-price purchase system for renewable energy with mandatory purchase of all power generated

[Policy Objectives]

Increase public awareness of global warming by promoting countermeasures rooted in everyday life.

Promote development of new technologies and new industries in the energy field, thereby creating stable jobs.

[Specific Measures]

Fast-track the introduction of a fixed-price purchase system that requires power companies to purchase the entire power output of renewable energy generators (not just surplus power), and promote the development and diffusion of "smart" electricity grid technologies.

Subsidise the purchase of solar panels for residential homes and other buildings, "green" vehicles, and energy-saving appliances.

44. Promote the spread of environmentally friendly, high-quality housing

[Policy Objectives]

Change to a housing policy that promotes the spread of housing suited to people's diversifying values.

[Specific Measures]

Prioritise renovation of existing housing. Support barrier-free remodelling, seismic retrofitting, and energy-saving renovation work such as installation of solar panels and insulation.

Fundamentally review relevant laws and regulations such as the Building Standards Act and make lump-sum grants to local governments to cover the costs of streamlining home building certifications and permissions.

Promote the training of expert appraisers (home inspectors) and the documentation of on-site work in real estate transactions.

To develop a diverse supply of rental housing, create a support system including rent subsidies and income deductions.

Promote the spread of the fixed-term rental housing system. Encourage wider use of non-recourse loans. Facilitate the use of reverse mortgages based on land value alone.

Promote wooden housing construction as a key “local resource utilisation industry.” Encourage skilled craftsmen to carry on traditional building techniques, and foster the sound development of local construction and building industries.

45. Lead the world with innovative environmental and related technologies

[Policy Objectives]

Increase the ratio of renewable energy to total primary energy supply to around 10 percent by 2020.

Maintain and boost Japan’s international competitiveness by promoting R&D and commercialisation of environmental technology.

[Specific Measures]

Promote R&D and commercialisation of world-leading environmental technology such as fuel cells, superconductivity, and biomass.

Foster new, innovation-based industries by harnessing new energy and energy-saving technologies.

Raise the teaching and research capacities of Japan’s universities and laboratories to the top global level by improving the system of public R&D corporations (including national university corporations) and creating research grant programmes.

46. Establish secure energy supplies

[Policy Objectives]

Establish secure energy supply systems to ensure stability in people's lives and achieve stable economic growth.

[Specific Measures]

Pursue an integrated approach to acquiring secure energy supplies, developing and promoting the use of new energy sources, and promoting energy saving.

Establish systems for acquiring secure supplies of rare metals. Develop recycling systems for rare metals and pursue diplomatic approaches with exporting countries.

While placing safety first and gaining the understanding and confidence of the people, take steady steps toward the use of nuclear power.

VI. Consumers and Human Rights

47. Protect consumers' rights and ensure safety

[Policy Objectives]

Protect people from safety risks in everyday life.

Make the consumer's perspective central to the administration.

[Specific Measures]

Enact a "Risk Information Disclosure Act" requiring companies to disclose information about potentially hazardous products and goods.

Strengthen the consumer administration by radically improving the employment conditions of consumer counsellors, both at local consumer centres and at the National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan.

Create a system for the forfeiture of illegally gotten assets by unscrupulous business operators, in order to provide effective redress for property damage, which forms the majority of cases brought to consumer counsellors) and to make the system of injunction claims by consumer organisations more effective.

[Cost: Approximately 40 billion yen]

48. *Protect people from disasters and crime*

[Policy Objectives]

Protect people from disasters and crime.

[Specific Measures]

Strengthen the crisis management system, in particular by establishing a “Crisis Management Agency” (provisional title) to ensure speedy rescue of victims, contain damage and maintain urban functions in major disasters.

Expand police functions in those areas most closely connected with daily life: community police affairs, criminal investigation, and community safety.

[Cost: Approximately 50 billion yen]

49. *Prevent false criminal charges through video recording of interrogations*

[Policy Objectives]

Prevent long court battles hinging on the voluntary nature of confessions.

Prevent false criminal charges based on forced confessions.

[Specific Measures]

Make interrogation processes visible by such means as video recording.

[Cost: Approximately 9 billion yen]

50. *Establish a “Human Rights Violations Relief Agency” and ratify the Optional Protocols to the Relevant Human Rights Treaties*

[Policy Objectives]

With the aim of creating a society in which human rights are respected, provide speedy and effective relief of human rights violations.

[Specific Measures]

Establish a “Human Rights Violations Relief Agency” as an extra-ministerial agency of the Cabinet Office.

Ratify the optional protocols to the relevant human rights treaties, which allow individuals to directly lodge complaints of human rights violations with international bodies and to seek relief.¹

Correction: ¹ Amended from "Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which allows individuals to directly lodge complaints of human rights violations with international bodies and to seek relief."

VII. Foreign Relations

51. *Build a close and equal Japan-U.S. relationship*

Build a close and equal Japan-U.S. alliance to serve as the foundation of Japan's foreign policy. For this purpose, having developed an autonomous foreign policy strategy for Japan, determine the assignment of functions and roles between Japan and the United States, and work positively to fulfil Japan's responsibilities in this regard.

Promote liberalization of trade and investment through the conclusion of a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States. The measures will not include any which are detrimental to the safety and stable supply of food, increasing Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio, and the development of Japan's agricultural industry and its farming villages.

Propose the revision of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement. Move in the direction of re-examining the realignment of the U.S. military forces in Japan and the role of U.S. military bases in Japan.

52. *Strengthen Japan's foreign relations in Asia with the aim of building an East Asian Community*

[Policy Objectives]

Make the greatest possible effort to develop relations of mutual trust with China, South Korea, and other Asian countries.

Establish intra-regional cooperative mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in such areas as trade, finance, energy, the environment, disaster relief, and measures to control infectious diseases.

Take positive measures to promote the conclusion of economic partnership agreements (EPAs) and free trade agreements (FTAs) with countries of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as countries throughout the world, covering a broad range of fields including investment, labour and intellectual property. The measures will not include any which are detrimental to the safety and stable supply of food, increasing Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio, and the development of Japan's agricultural industry and its farming villages.

53. North Korea must not be permitted to possess nuclear weapons

North Korea's repeated nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches constitute a clear threat to the peace and stability of Japan and the international community, and they certainly cannot be permitted.

In cooperation with the international community, especially the United States, South Korea, China, and Russia, we will take firm measures, including cargo inspections, to induce North Korea to abandon the development, possession, and deployment of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and missiles.

The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea is a violation of Japan's sovereignty and a serious violation of human rights, and we will make every effort to resolve this issue as a responsibility of the Japanese government.

54. Realise world peace and prosperity

Aim to build world peace that emphasises the importance of the United Nations, and play a significant role by taking the lead on UN reforms and other areas.

Play a role in building peace by participating in UN peacekeeping operations and related efforts. However, such participation must be based on Japan's own judgment and must be placed under democratic control and governance.

Carry out anti-piracy operations according to proper procedures in order to provide security for maritime transport and make an international contribution.

Promote liberalisation of trade and investment, in particular by exercising leadership toward the successful conclusion of World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations through such means as improvement of the dispute settlement system and a fundamental review of agricultural and other policies.

55. Take the lead in working for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and remove the threat of terrorism

Work toward a nuclear-free Northeast Asia.

Make efforts to facilitate the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the early realisation of a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

Play a leadership role in the 2010 review conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

To eradicate terrorism and its breeding grounds, study the implementation of economic assistance, strengthening of government institutions, and humanitarian and reconstruction activities, in conjunction with NGOs, and contribute to the eradication of poverty and to national reconstruction.

Toward Free and Frank Constitutional Debate by the People

The role of the constitution in modern constitutionalism has been defined as follows: "The constitution comprises the fundamental norms and standards established by those in whom sovereignty resides to limit the exercise of state power." By no means is the constitution meant to enunciate the social vision or the traditions and values that a government in office at any given time may wish to aspire to. Nor is it a collection of norms and standards that the government may want to use to define the obligations and moral duties of the people. The Democratic Party of Japan believes that the core principles of the Constitution of Japan, which are "popular sovereignty," "respect for fundamental human rights," and "pacifism," are firmly sustained by the conviction of the people. The Democratic Party of Japan has presented a very responsible position to the people regarding constitutional amendment. That is, from the perspective of establishing true constitutionalism and adhering to the principle that "the Constitution is in the hands of the people," we have advocated that any deficiencies in the present Constitution should be rectified and that any points requiring revision should be amended. In the autumn of 2005, the Democratic Party of Japan released its "Proposals for the Constitution." Based on this document, we will continue to engage in free and frank constitutional debate with the people throughout the country. We shall very carefully but actively examine whether there are items which many people want amended and on which a broadly-based consensus can be readily forged in the Diet.

Manifesto: The Democratic Party of Japan's Platform for Government

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Issued by: The Democratic Party of Japan
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