

The DPJ Manifesto 2014

NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE THE TIDE

BIDDING FAREWELL TO ABENOMICS

Strengthening and enriching the middle class

We will create jobs, increase incomes, and stabilize livelihoods. We will create an ample and affluent middle class as the mainstay of society and will act to rectify disparities.

The DPJ Priority Policies

1. The Economy

These are the three main pillars of the Democratic Party of Japan's economic policy:

- Flexible monetary policy that pays keen attention to people's lives.
- Investment in people to transform their feelings about their lives from anxiety to hope.
- Growth strategy that links us to the future.

To fulfill our responsibility to future generations, we will make steady progress toward fiscal reconstruction.

● Measures against over-depreciation of the yen

- We will support consumers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and producers in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors suffering the consequences of the weaker yen that has added significantly to their costs, by for example providing subsidies to counter the rising cost of gasoline and diesel fuel.
- Instead of the excessive 'new phase of monetary easing' which has been pursued, we will call on the Bank of Japan to adopt a more flexible monetary policy that pays keen attention to people's lives, while taking account of economic, fiscal and market conditions.

● Childrearing support, stable employment, and security in old age

We will invest in people to increase disposable incomes.

- We will create a society in which anyone who wishes can marry and have children with a full sense of security. For this, we will fundamentally expand childrearing support and reinforce programs supporting marriage and childbirth for the younger generation.
- We will create a society that offers younger people hope for the future by improving the treatment of irregular workers and creating greater regular employment.
- We will promote employment and community activities for the elderly.
- We will create a society in which both working-age generations and the elderly can consume with peace of mind by alleviating future uncertainty through the reinforcement and stabilization of the social security system.

- We will upwardly revise compensation under the long-term care and disability welfare systems and raise wages for persons working in long-term care and disability services.

We will raise agricultural incomes and increase the number of new farmers by implementing the individual household income support system for farmers and by supporting the development of agriculture as a sixth sector (involvement of primary industry producers in other sectors such as manufacturing and services)

● **Implement Growth Strategy Linked to the Future**

- We will concentrate policy resources on green innovation, life-science industries, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and SME measures.
- We will promote the revitalization of local industries and aim to develop compact cities.
- We will aim to realize a new public commons by for example maintaining and expanding the tax system with respect to nonprofit organizations.

● **Powerfully Support SMEs as Foundation of Industry and Employment**

- We will promote the transfer of manufacturing technologies and skills to the next generation, reinforce systems for supporting entrepreneurship, foundation of businesses and development of human resources, support overseas business expansion, and implement the principles of the SME Charter under a cabinet minister in charge of SMEs.
- We will create a business environment conducive to SME activities and development through such means as prohibiting third-party guarantees and reinforcing tax measures supporting SMEs.

● **Correct Overconcentration of Powers, Promote Decentralization, and Revitalize the Regions**

- We will establish an Act for Promoting Fundamental Reform of Relations between Central Government and the Regions to implement easy-to-use lump-sum local grants and to promote the transfer of power and fiscal resources to local governments. We will promote regulatory reform based on regional perspectives.
- We will promote the local production and consumption of energy, revitalize local economies and create jobs.

● **Promote Fiscal Reconstruction and Fulfill Responsibility to the Future**

- We will review pork-barrel public works projects that cannot use up their assigned budgets, and steadily implement reconstruction projects and truly necessary infrastructure development.
- We will establish an Act on Promoting Fiscal Reconstruction.

● **Postpone Consumption Tax Rate Increase**

- Abenomics has undermined people's lives, while failing to meet promises to reinforce and stabilize the social security system and to reduce the number of seats in the Diet. In light of these failures, we will postpone the increase in the consumption tax rate.
- We will implement definite measures to protect those on low-incomes. We will consider consumption tax refund measures (benefits and tax credits), as well as the introduction of a multiple rate system.

CREATE A SOCIETY BUILT ON MUTUAL COEXISTENCE IN WHICH EVERY PERSON IS RESPECTED

We will create a society in which everyone can study and work in security, where people support each other while embracing diversity, where women and men are afforded opportunities to develop and express their abilities—a society in which everyone has a place and a role to play. To realize this society, we will actively invest in people.

2. Social Security

We will restore confidence in the social security system by addressing the issues of an aging society with falling birthrates; shrinking population; and the increase in irregular employment.

● Reinforce Medical and Long-Term Care Services at Local Level

- Spending on medical services has been cut back in real terms and we are once again faced with the prospect of a collapsing medical system. We will ensure necessary spending on medical services, revamp local systems for providing medical services, and strengthen the link between medical and long-term care services.
- To ensure sufficient human resources in long-term care and disability welfare systems, we will upwardly revise compensation under the long-term care and disability welfare systems and raise wages for persons working in long-term care and disability welfare services.
- The current administration is pursuing a policy of cutting back on long-term care services to those who are categorized as needing such services. We will reverse this policy and aim to provide well-trained long-term care services to elderly individuals who need support.

● Promote Pension Reform

- We will firmly maintain the universal pension system and ensure life security for the elderly. To realize these objectives, we will aim to implement pension reforms for creating a unified public pension program and instituting a minimum guaranteed pension system.
- As the first step, we will guarantee benefit payments to low-pension individuals and further expand eligibility for employee pension programs.
- Pension funds must be managed to ensure benefits are provided to beneficiaries. With this in mind, we will stop the plan to double the investment of national pension funds in the stock market and will commit to prudent management.

● Build a Society that Supports Childrearing

- We will ensure sufficient funds are available for eliminating daycare waiting lists and enhancing child and childrearing support in the community. We will promote the smooth transition to a new system of integrated kindergartens and daycare services.
- We will aim to eliminate child poverty by halting the intergenerational transference of poverty..

● Strengthen Measures against Ebola Hemorrhage Fever, Dengue Fever, New Strains of Influenza and Other Infectious Diseases

3. Employment

We will look at the issues from the standpoint of workers and improve the quality of employment.

● Halt Deterioration of Labor Laws and Ensure Employment Security

- We will not allow any form of labor deregulation that worsens working conditions. We will halt the harmful revision of the Worker Dispatching Act, the exemption of white collar workers from paid overtime, and the monetary settlement system for terminations.

● Raise Labor Standards

- We will establish an Act to Promote Equal Pay for Equal Work. We will ensure equal treatment and development opportunities for all workers, whether regular or irregular.
- We will raise the minimum wage while providing support to SMEs.

● Creating an Environment for All to Work in Physical and Mental Health

- We will aim to eliminate death from overwork and will steadily implement measures based on the Act to Promote Measures against Death From Overwork and Other Issues.

4. Education

We will improve the quality of education and create a society in which all can study.

● Reduce Class Sizes

- We will counter the move to return to 40 pupils per class and firmly maintain classrooms of 35 or less in compulsory education.

● Ensure Equal Opportunities in Education

- We will aim to reduce the burden of preschool education and to create a free high school tuition system without income caps. We will expand scholarships and tuition exemptions for universities and other institutions of higher education, and will aim to create grant-type scholarships that do not need to be repaid.

5. Women and Coexistence

We will promote gender equality and create a society that accepts diversity.

● We will work to eliminate workplace harassment, rectify unequal treatment on the basis of gender, and make it compulsory to establish and publish goals for raising the ratio of female managers and executives.

● We will promote assistance for single-parent households and support for those who wish to continue working while rearing children or caring for a loved one. We will increase support for improving women's health.

● We will aim to effectively implement the Act on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, in order to realize a society in which persons with and without disabilities can live together.

- We will establish an Act on Measures Against Hate Speech to eliminate discrimination based on race and other factors, while ensuring freedom of expression.

LISTENING TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND REVITALIZING HOMETOWNS

We will eliminate the uncertainties of local residents and create jobs in hometowns to realize sustained growth. Without the revitalization of Fukushima and reconstruction from the earthquake there can be no revitalization of Japan.

6. Earthquake Reconstruction and the Revitalization of Fukushima

We will stand shoulder to shoulder with disaster victims, and implement reconstruction and revitalization.

- We will extend the five-year concentrated reconstruction period and powerfully promote measures for the reconstruction of the disaster-affected areas.
- We will fully mobilize the Reconstruction Agency, special reconstruction zones, and reconstruction grants to promote community development, the move to higher ground, and the creation of jobs and workplaces.
- Based on the Act for the Support of Children and Disaster Victims, we will reinforce health monitoring, and increase support for single-parent evacuees and for returning evacuees.
- We will acknowledge the social responsibility of the central government and promote the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima from the nuclear power plant disaster. We will take every possible measure to ensure the safety of the damaged nuclear reactors and will take leadership in addressing the leakage of contaminated water and other challenges that stand in the way of decommissioning the reactors. At the same time, we will counter damages caused by false rumors, pursue thorough decontamination, and act to achieve speedy compensation. Through these initiatives we will swiftly advance the reconstruction and stabilization of people's lives.
- We will take all available measures to prepare for earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, landslides, damage from high winds and flooding, damage from heavy snow, and abnormal weather phenomena. While making necessary infrastructure improvements, such as the establishment of "lifesaving roads," we will also develop hazard maps and disclose risk and contingency information.

7. Nuclear Power Generation and Energy

We will invest all available policy resources toward achieving zero nuclear power generation by the 2030s.

- We will thoroughly investigate the causes of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident. We will ensure the safety of local residents in the event of an accident by

establishing a system that clarifies the responsibility of central government in drafting evacuation plans. No nuclear power plant should be allowed to resume operation unless responsible evacuation plans have been finalized.

- We will promote the maximum possible use of renewable energy. We will establish a Basic Act for Promoting Energy Decentralization and will promote local production and consumption of environmentally-friendly energy. We will support local SMEs, revitalize local economies and create jobs. We will demand that power companies who refuse to connect renewable energy producers to the grid should in principle stop such behavior immediately.
- We will act to dramatically increase the diffusion of Japan's outstanding energy-saving technologies by amending the Act on the Rational Use of Energy, and by mandating insulation in residential housing and calling for energy conservation efforts to receive a higher profile.
- We will reform the electric power system by fully liberalizing the retail market for electric power, reinforcing the power transmission network and unbundling the functions of power generation, transmission and distribution. We will act to ensure stable power supply while lowering the cost of electric power and expanding the range of consumer options.

8. Food Safety and Security

We will defend food safety and security and will revive Japan's agriculture.

- **Legislate Individual Household Income Support System for Farmers to Preserve Safe and Tasty Food**
 - We will ensure the stable supply of domestic rice threatened by falling rice prices, and will preserve the high quality of rice.
- **Promote Local Production and Consumption and Food Safety and Foster Development of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Sector**
 - We will support local production and consumption, and promote the diffusion of safe domestic agricultural and fishery products.
 - We will support the development of agriculture as a sixth sector and increase the number of new farmers by raising the level of farm incomes.
- **Demand Full Information Disclosure and Approach TPP with a Firm Stance**
 - We will promote high quality economic partnerships and take a leadership position in formulating international rules.
 - Regarding the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership Agreement (TPP), we will act to protect Japan's national interests in such areas as excluding Japan's five sensitive agricultural, forestry and fishery products, ensuring food safety, and safeguarding Japan's universal medical insurance system, by approaching TPP negotiations with a firm stance, which does not rule out withdrawing from negotiations if necessary. We will promote full information disclosure of economic partnership negotiations by establishing an Act to Promote Information Disclosure.

HOLDING FAST TO EXCLUSIVELY DEFENSE-ORIENTED SECURITY POLICY AND PRINCIPLES OF PACIFISM

9. Foreign Policy and Defense

We will pursue responsible defense and strategic diplomacy.

We will firmly defend the lives and property of the people and the sovereignty of Japan's territorial land, waters, and airspace. We demand the retraction of the cabinet decision permitting the exercise of the right to collective self-defense, as this is contrary to constitutionalism.

- While continuing to reinforce Japan's dynamic defense capabilities, we will deepen the Japan-U.S. alliance that stands as a key pillar of Japan's diplomatic and national security policy.
- We will establish a Territorial Patrol Act. For the defense of Japan, including countering grey-zone incidents, we will act to enhance the capabilities of the Japan Coast Guard and other relevant agencies and will enable the Self-Defense Forces to respond seamlessly to crisis situations.
- Against the backdrop of Asia's changing security environment, we will foster mutual trust and improved relations with neighboring countries and will pursue a strategic diplomatic policy.
- We will do everything in our power to resolve the abduction issue.
- We will postpone the enforcement of the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets pending strengthened supervision and intervention by the Diet or other third-party bodies.
- We will preserve the principles of the sovereignty of the people, respect for fundamental human rights and pacifism, and work to create a vision for a future-oriented Constitution.

10. Painful and Selfless Political Reform

We will keep our promises to the people and restore confidence in politics.

- We will reduce the number of seats in the Diet.
- We will rectify the disparity in the value of votes.

NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE THE TIDE

What possible reason is there for holding a general election at this time?

After two years of the Abe administration's economic policies, people's lives have only deteriorated, while disparities have widened and been set in stone.

We can see that the current administration has resorted to political strong-arming at every turn: over The Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets, the right to collective self-defense, and the resumption of nuclear power generation.

These actions have cast a dark shadow over the minds and hearts of the Japanese people. That is why we are saying, "Now is the time to change the tide."

In the past, active consumption by an ample middle class stimulated the Japanese economy, and this brought stability to our society. Abenomics has been forced on the people with the refrain, "There is no other road we can follow." Now is the time to bid farewell to Abenomics and to adopt economic policies that raise the standard of living by stabilizing employment, providing childrearing support, and guaranteeing security in old age. In this Manifesto, we have outlined the three pillars of the Democratic Party of Japan's economic policy aimed at strengthening and enriching the middle class.

The presence of a robust opposition is inextricably linked to the thorough information disclosure, full discussion, and politics that reflects the will of the people, all concepts which are the foundation of democracy.

We must maintain a political process characterized by a sound degree of tension and the availability of a wide range of options.

We will construct a society built on mutual coexistence in which diversity is respected, one in which everyone has a place and a role to play.

We will promote the development of diverse and vibrant local communities by stemming the tide of overconcentration of power and transferring necessary powers and fiscal resources to the regions.

This Manifesto we present to the people is subject to constant review and will continue to evolve as we endeavor to keep closely in step with the people.

We are firmly committed to "correcting the trajectory of the nation" by viewing issues from the standpoint of the people, taxpayers, consumers, and workers in determining our political decisions and actions.

"Now is the time to change the tide!"

Banri Kaieda

President

The Democratic Party of Japan