

23 January, 2014

**Statement by Yasuchika Hasegawa, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
On the Start of the Tokyo Gubernatorial Election**

The Tokyo gubernatorial election began today. The city of Tokyo faces many issues, and through a balanced debate, we hope that the candidates can explain their solution to each issue. We hope that the debate does not focus solely on nuclear energy, but also includes the possibility of an earthquake hitting the Tokyo metropolitan area, the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, the rapidly developing aging of population, and the number of children on the waiting list for nursery care.

Soon after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Keizai Doyukai expressed our stance on future energy policy. We believe that in the long run, Japan should reduce its dependence on nuclear power. However, we cannot simply overlook the rapid increase in fossil fuel imports resulting from the shutdown of the nuclear power plants. These imports have resulted in an annual loss of 4 trillion yen from the state coffers. We all have to understand that this situation could threaten the very foundation of the Japanese economy. We hope that all Tokyo voters will carefully consider the policies of each candidate.

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