

November 21, 2014

**Statement by Yasuchika Hasegawa, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
On Lower House Dissolution**

The House of Representatives is dissolved today. We welcome the passage of two bills related to the local economy vitalization through this extraordinary session of the Diet. It is truly regrettable, however, that not much discussion was made on the reduction of Diet seats and a head-to-head debate was not held between party leaders. As a result, the Diet is closed with key bills such as the amendment bill of Worker Dispatching Act and the bill for Promoting Women's Active Social Participation unvoted.

Amid the numerous challenges outstanding, each party member is requested to face the election campaign with a strong determination to realize the improvement in the economy and society after this general election.

Upon completion of the general election, we expect the government and ruling parties to swiftly respond, without a political vacuum, to (1) fiscal consolidation that has an impact to the international community's confidence on Japan, (2) economic growth, and (3) issues such as social security, tax system, and energy, which are all of direct importance to public lives. We are hopeful that such a response will create a virtuous cycle toward a sustainable growth.

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