

March 15, 2017

**Statement by Yoshimitsu Kobayashi, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
On “Shunto” Spring Wage Negotiations 2017**

1. Most Japanese companies have settled the labor-management wage negotiations today for Shunto 2017. We welcome the pay scale hike led by major companies for four consecutive years despite the drastically changing business management environment with a return to protectionism in Western countries, an unclear course of the US-Japan trade negotiations, uncertainties in currency movement, and unstable East Asian developments, just to name a few. We hope Shunto 2017 will drive the favorable trend to be disseminated to the local economies, small and medium-sized enterprises, non-manufacturing industries, and others.
2. Corporate executives must stand firm to continue addressing the best use of diverse human powers and “Work Style Reform” that drives productivity innovation for higher corporate competitiveness and Japan’s sustainable economic growth. Meanwhile, in order to stimulate consumer spending for economic boost, we believe there is a pressing need for the government to eliminate the public concerns for the future through the establishment of the sustainable tax/social security system.

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