

May 4, 2020

**Statement by Kengo Sakurada, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
on Extension of Emergency Declaration Regarding
New Coronavirus Pandemic**

1. The government has decided to extend the declaration of a state of emergency due May 6 until May 31. The decision is indispensable for an early ending of further infections of the new coronavirus. While extending the period, the basic action policy has been revised to allow prefectures other than “the 13 Prefectures under Specific Cautions” to partially lift restrictions on activities. We believe that the revision intends to balance preventing the spread of infections and maintaining economic activities. We request the government to elaborate on preventive measures against infections that have scientific and legal grounds, as well as on countermeasures against the possible second wave of the spread. Furthermore, in “a new mode of daily life in the era facing the new coronavirus,” we expect efforts of the government to focus insights in the public/private sectors on expeditious studies of concrete measures, such as setting out anti-infection guidelines in each field, for the economic revitalization. This should trigger acceleration of the digitalization, leading to a sustainable and forward-looking social system.
2. Against the backdrop of extending the emergency measures, surroundings of households and business operators are becoming even harsher. A supplementary budget passed the Diet at the end of April, allowing for cash subsidies of ¥100,000 per person and business continuity subsidies to business operators affected by the spread of new coronavirus infections. In this regard, we expect more government initiatives to enable smooth processing for cash delivery by utilizing digital tools such as online applications. In view of the extension of the emergency measures, an expansion of the support measures is also to be deliberated without delay.
3. Looking to overcome the current crisis, it is of primary importance that all citizens share a sense of urgency and act to reduce person-to-person contact by 80%, with adequate self-consciousness and responsibilities. More attention is to be paid to socially vulnerable people such as those suffering from domestic violence and child abuse, as their population is increasing in the prolonged emergency situation. In view of ending further infections, Keizai Doyukai will continue to request its members’ organizations actively to promote measures such as teleworking, and endeavor to ensure availability of medical supplies and support their offering, in cooperation with Keizai Doyukai in each region.