

January 7, 2021

**Statement by Kengo Sakurada, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
on Second Declaration of State of Emergency for COVID-19**

1. A state of emergency was declared again, covering Tokyo and the surrounding prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama, and Chiba. It is deemed unavoidable, as the accelerating pace of the new cases of infections mostly in the Greater Tokyo area has strained capacity at hospitals. We support the government's policy measures with a focus on limited and concentrated restrictions, which reflect lessons learned until now. It is a crucial step into measures that impose a great burden on individuals and business operators. We must work out results with a public-private concerted effort.
2. We expect the upcoming ordinary Diet session to take a quick action for passing and implementing (a) amendment of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases and (b) the FY2020 third supplementary budget. It is to make infection control measures more effective. In the area of healthcare and nursing care, above all, self-help efforts of each business operator and municipality will not solve issues by themselves. The government's meticulous response that meets the needs of the front line will be appreciated.
3. For overcoming the crisis, each one of us must undergo behavioral change in daily life toward the "new normal." Keizai Doyukai renews its strong request to the members for enforcement of infection control measures such as teleworking, and it is to be initiated by each business leader through his/her active reviewing of business procedures.

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