

**Statement by Kengo Sakurada, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
on Inauguration of 46th U.S. President Joe Biden**

1. We offer our heartfelt congratulations on the inauguration of the 46th United States President Joe Biden. We are in the hope that the new president will demonstrate his strong leadership in the smooth transfer of power and the implementation of countermeasures against COVID-19 that are pressing and the biggest challenges now. Furthermore, the social divide and the economic inequality, which are both becoming more serious in the United States, are to be surmounted under his leadership.
2. Now, we welcome a return of the U.S. foreign policy to a principle of international cooperation under the Biden administration. Meanwhile, the world today is facing universal, mounting issues such as climate change and the pandemic of the virus we must defeat. We are looking forward to a comeback of the U.S. as a world leader that champions democracy and market economies, initiating once again peace and prosperity of the international community.
3. The geo-economically induced heightening of uncertainties in the international community raises the importance of the relations between the U.S. and Japan—the largest and the second largest economy among democratic countries. Japan is requested to contribute to free and open Indo-Pacific taking root and the stability of the East Asia region, by coordinating with the U.S. through diplomacy that is inclusive and robust. Responding to such request requires further expansion of the U.S.-Japan partnership, by increasing people-to-people multilevel exchanges in various sectors—besides inter-government—such as business, culture, and science.

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