

March 11, 2021

**Statement by Kengo Sakurada, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai
on Tenth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake**

1. It has been ten years since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. We reiterate a prayer for the peaceful repose of the victims. We also offer our heartfelt sympathy to the people still at evacuation sites, following the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster in their local regions.
2. The ten years have brought remarkable progress in the rebuilding process, despite the disastrous damages right after the earthquake. We respect the hard work of the people involved with the rebuilding work, especially that of the local residents. The reality, however, is that there are not a few affected sites, struggling with shrinking population as a result of the declining business activities. Revitalizing their local industries—the foundation of their communities—is still the challenges to take on toward the reconstruction. We hope that meticulous industrial supports will be provided further, initiated by the Reconstruction Agency, which has its installation time limit extended to 2031.
3. Keizai Doyukai believes that the development of young people, who play an active role in regional economies in the future, has a key importance to the reconstruction. From this perspective, Keizai Doyukai have carried out initiatives as follows:
 - Offering training equipment to vocational high schools under the IPPO IPPO NIPPON project
 - Assistance to the training program provided for corporate employees in Onagawa-cho, Miyagi
 - Special support to the Tohoku Future Creation Initiative that has pursued the development of social entrepreneurs and local businesspersonsWe are expecting that the young people empowered through our initiatives will strongly reconstruct industries going forward.
4. Since the incident, Keizai Doyukai members have repeated their visits to the various affected sites such as Fukushima Hama-dori Area, one of the districts struck by the nuclear disaster. We will keep our close ties with the stricken-sites down the road, and actively disseminate our local findings inside and outside Japan as business leaders. By doing so, we will endeavor to keep people's memories over the incident, while helping to dispel reputational damage caused by unsubstantiated allegations.