

**Statement by Kengo Sakurada, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai  
on Launch of Digital Agency**

1. The Digital Agency has been launched today. Behind the establishment of this new government body are the delay in Japan's digitalization, highlighted by the struggles in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, and the necessity to build a new economy and society driven by the digital transformation across the communities. In taking on these challenges, we hope to see the Agency to be a powerful engine as a key force of the digital reforms.
2. The challenges faced by the Agency are already clear—such as a breakdown of functional silos between ministries/agencies for data sharing, system standardization of the municipalities, and more use of the Numbers for Identifying Specific Individuals or “My Number.” The Agency must present concrete targets, their timelines, key areas for action, and the order of importance in the new priority plan available later this year, followed by a quick start for successful results. We also expect their organizational and personnel management to function well for the effective utilization of human resources from public and private sectors.
3. Digitalization is not only the challenge of the governmental organizations. For more convenience in our daily living and a vibrant economy going forward, there must be progress in setting a protocol for data standardization from users' point of view and in promoting openness of public data. Furthermore, in line with the advancements in digital technology, a formation of new rules that go well with the digital society is to be pursued in a proactive manner, through full-fledged overhaul of competition law, personal information protection law, and various business laws that originate from functional silos between ministries/agencies.

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