Special Requests/Remarks from the Private-Sector Council Members

(March 6, 2023)

In previous Special Requests/Remarks from the Private-Sector Council Members (in FY2020 and FY2022), we called on the Japanese Law Translation Project to release at least 600 English translations of laws, regulations, and outlines in the five years from FY2021 to FY2025, and asked that it aim to release at least 1,000 translations in that same timeframe if technological progress allowed for it. In light of the extent to which the work on this has progressed, we are now asking the related ministries and agencies to take the following measures. Additionally, they will need to proceed from a long-term perspective in order to secure the necessary budget to increase the number of laws and regulations planned for translation and to speed the release of those translations.

1. <u>Increasing the number of laws and regulations included in the Translation Development Plan</u>

In principle, a law or regulation should be selected for inclusion in the Translation Development Plan if private sector members of the Joint Public- and Private-Sector Strategy Council request that it be translated, and if it belongs to a field in which translations should be made a priority; ministries and agencies should be including more of these types of laws and regulations in the Plan. If a ministry or agency does not select a law or regulation meeting these criteria for inclusion in the Plan, it should explain why.

> ● Legal Fields in Which Translation Should Be Prioritized
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> ・Fields of law connected with inward direct investment (financial laws, fields connected with the digital world, etc.)
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> ・Intellectual property law
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> ・Fundamental laws in the field of civil affairs (the Code of Civil Procedure, the Bankruptcy Act, etc.)
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> ・Fields of law that are of concern to foreign nationals residing in Japan (taxes, pensions, consumer laws, labor laws, etc.)

2. <u>Ensuring quality while shortening the time it takes to release English translations of laws and regulations</u>

It is important for an English translation to be released quickly after the promulgation or amendment of the law or regulation in question. As such, the Project should work to shorten the time it takes to release English translations of laws and regulations, both by adopting AI translation within FY 2023, and by building new workflows premised on this.

In addition, the Project should increase the number of experts and take other measures to further strengthen the system for quality checks, so that increasing the number of English translations of laws and regulations does not lead to a deterioration in the translation quality.