Special Requests/Remarks from the Private-Sector Council Members

(FY2024)

The Council Members are asking the related ministries and agencies to take the following measures concerning the Japanese Law Translation Project, as important issues that should be addressed on a priority basis.

1. <u>Aim to release over 1,000 English translated Japanese laws and regulations by FY2026</u>

In the previous Special Requests/Remarks from the Private-Sector Council Members (FY2020 and FY2022), we requested the Japanese Law Translation Project to aim at releasing at least 600 English translations of laws, regulations, and outlines, and at least 1,000 translations in accordance with technological progress and other factors, in the five years from FY2021 to FY2025. In light of the progress of this Project, although the target of the release of over 600 translations is expected to be achieved, it will be difficult to achieve the target of the release of over 1,000 translations. However, taking into consideration the increase in demand for this Project, we should continue to set a high goal and strongly promote the Project.

Thus, the government should work on the Project by extending the period for achieving the target by one year and aim at releasing over 1,000 English translations of laws, regulations, and outlines by FY2026.

2. <u>Aim to release the laws and regulations in the fields for which translation should be prioritized within one year after their promulgation or amendment,</u>

<u>in principle</u>

Although it is important to promptly release the English translations of laws and regulations after their promulgation or amendment by taking their effective date into consideration, the resources that the government can allocate to Japanese law translation are limited.

Thus, the government should aim to release the laws and regulations within one year after their promulgation or amendment in principle, for the laws and regulations in the fields for which translation should be prioritized, by using methods such as the Japanese Law Translation System utilizing AI and the substitute creation of draft English translations by the Ministry of Justice.

In addition, those laws and regulations should be promptly selected as laws and regulations that will be included in the Translation Improvement Plan in principle, and if a law or regulation is not selected, the relevant ministry or agency should explain the reason for not selecting the law or regulation to the Council.

● Legal Fields in Which Translation Should Be Prioritized

・Fields of law connected with inward direct investment (financial laws, fields connected with the digital world, etc.)

・Intellectual property law

・Fundamental laws in the field of civil affairs (Companies Act, Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, etc.)

・Fields of law that concern foreign nationals residing in Japan (taxes, pensions, consumer laws, labor laws, etc.)

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3. <u>Quality assurance of translated laws and regulations after the introduction of</u>

the Translation System for Laws and Regulations Utilizing AI

While the number of laws and regulations that are required to be examined by the Ministry of Justice is expected to increase through the use of the Japanese Law Translation System utilizing AI and the substitute creation of draft English translations by the Ministry of Justice, quality inspection system of English translations should be maintained, so that there is no deterioration in translation quality.

Furthermore, as improving quality and function of the Japanese Law Translation System utilizing AI is important in order to accelerate this Project, the Ministry of Justice should review the appropriate state of the System by taking user needs into consideration.