

Declaration issued by the 55th Kansai Economic and Management Summit
(provisional translation)

At the 55th Kansai Economic and Management Summit we discussed a range of issues under the main theme of “Learning from the Past and Creating the Future: Seize Tomorrow with All-out Efforts.” Based on the discussion, we adopted the declaration below.

1. As a leader in the international community, Japan respects freedom, democracy and the principle of the rule of law. Based on these values, Japan must build cooperative and multi-layered ties with other countries by promoting diplomatic, economic, and human exchanges with them and the United Nations. At a time when the global economic and security situations are about to change dramatically following the inauguration of U.S. President Trump and due to China’s expansionism, it is imperative for Japan to formulate a security policy backed by the idea that the country should defend itself, which includes strengthening its defense capabilities, while deepening the Japan–U.S. security alliance. Under these circumstances, Japan should promote education in which people see peace and national security as matters of their own. It is also necessary for Japanese to deepen discussion on the advisability of revising the Constitution.
2. We express strong concern that anti-globalist ideas have gathered impetus in Europe and the United States. For Japan to attain steady growth, it is crucially important for the country to join forces with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region and European countries to promote economic integration. We therefore ask the Japanese government to play a leading role in devising free and fair trade rules. As a way for Japan's role in promoting free and fair trade to receive international support, we will do what we can, including disseminating Japan's efforts on the technological front, and the attractiveness of its cultural and other values on the software front—to the rest of the world. Furthermore, we are prepared to contribute to developing human resources overseas. We will remain alert to possible changes in the international situation and brace ourselves for unexpected situations. Even if something unexpected happens, we will respond appropriately and flexibly to transform business risks arising from emergency situations into business opportunities.
3. We are strongly concerned about child poverty in Japan, a phenomenon that has become rampant in the country, gripping one out of six children here. If the "poverty cycle" is left unattended in this country, Japan's social foundation will be shaken, possibly hampering its economic growth and aggravating its business conditions—a situation for which we have a strong sense of crisis. In response to these circumstances, all members in society must tackle the issue by helping eradicate poverty not attributable to individual responsibility, narrowing the income disparity, providing equal opportunities to children, and establishing a better educational system for them. Business corporations, for their part, must join hands further with nonprofit organizations (NPOs) and government agencies to solve issues related to child poverty, with an aim of realizing "social innovation," a conceptual scheme aimed at promoting social reform.
4. The Kansai region will strive to rectify the current economic concentration in Tokyo with an aim of attaining the region’s economic growth at a time when Japan’s population is in decline. The Kansai region also aims to become the center of an envisaged “multi-polar land,” while serving as a gateway to Asia. For this vision to be realized, the region will urge the central government to push for early

implementation of a host of national infrastructure projects, including the early and full opening of the Chuo Shinkansen maglev line and the Hokuriku Shinkansen conventional railway line, the completion of expressway projects currently under construction in various parts of Japan, and the improvement of transportation access to Kansai International Airport. By taking advantage of these infrastructure projects, the Kansai region will draw up and carry out a medium-to-long-term development strategy. Furthermore, the region will step up collaboration with the Union of Kansai Governments while undertaking joint projects. By doing so, the Kansai region aims to play a leading role in decentralizing the powers of the central authority and implementing the regional system of division called “Doshu-sei”, both as part of the region’s growth strategy.

5. The Kansai region is scheduled to host the World Masters Games 2021, an international sport athletic competition held every four years. The region wants the games to become leverage to address a range of social issues facing Japan, a super-aging country, and to revitalize regional economies, with the eventual aim of becoming one of Japan’s most advanced areas for people pursuing lifelong sports. The three-year period of 2019 to 2021 has been dubbed the “Golden Sports Years” in Japan because three mega-sporting events that have an international audience are scheduled to be held in the country—the Rugby World Cup in 2019, Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020, and Kansai World Masters Games in 2021. The Kansai region will do its utmost to bring these sporting events to successful conclusions while improving the environment for holding the events. The Kansai region will enhance its cooperation further with local businesses, the Kansai academic community, government authorities in the region, athletic organizations, and most importantly, with the Japan Sports Agency. All these parties will share issues facing sport-related businesses in the Kansai region and their visions, while clarifying the roles each party will play. They will study creating an organization aimed at discussing these issues and concretizing the visions.
6. We will actively use innovative ideas and technologies that have emerged in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, build new business models in response to changes in the business environment, redesign management systems, and develop human resources in the AI field. Instead of totally following the governance styles adopted in Europe and the United States, we will pursue management that is beneficial to all stakeholders, based on the idea of serving the interests of society. We will seek to obtain understanding from the capital market on the importance of conducting business based on a mid- and long-term business philosophy, not focusing only on the short-term business goals described in the quarterly financial reports.

In addition to the above, the Kansai region, as part of its efforts to promote tourism, will strive to develop Yumeshima, an artificial island being developed in Osaka, into an integrated resort (IR) center and an area where international events can be held under the central government’s investment promotion campaign called MICE, which is formed from the first letter of four words—meetings, incentive travel, conventions, and exhibitions/events. The Kansai region will further strengthen health and medical industries in which the region is known to be competitive and work on establishing a sustainable system to support venture businesses with an aim of creating new industries. We will join hands with the central government, municipalities, and relevant organizations to support Osaka’s bid to host International Exposition 2025. If the lobbying campaign is successful, the Osaka Expo will become Japan’s growth engine after the Golden Sports Years. In addition, we will ask the government to achieve two conflicting goals—implementation of the growth strategy and fiscal reconstruction—as a way of attaining sustainable growth. Furthermore, we will call for early resumption of nuclear power plants whose safety has been confirmed, believing that nuclear power is a stable energy source for Japan’s industrial activities.