

# A new party platform for a fresh start

For a country that enables dreams, hope and pride • Aiming for loving Japan

## Heisei year 22 (2010) campaign platform

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### **Formulating a new platform**

#### **- As a foundation of a party renewal -**

Liberal Democratic Party Governor Tanigaki Sadatsu (new platform development committee chairman)

As a result of the historic defeat in the general election last summer, our party has lost its position in the ruling coalition. I, as the president of the LDP opposition party and the 24th elected Liberal Democratic party president, decided to take responsibility in renewing the party.

Since taking office as the president, I have traveled all over the country and listened to the voices of the voters. Many people asked „What kind of a party is the LDP? What will the party do for the people?“.

„We deeply reflect on our party and desire to get back on our feet“, since everyone expects a rehabilitation of my party. To respond to the feelings of the citizens, I strongly felt that we had to show quickly what kind of “political party the Liberal Democratic Party” is.

This new adopted program is the answer to all those concerns.

After taking office as the party president, and in order to carry out my determination that „I myself will lead the party revitalization“, we accepted Professor Fumii Ibuki as the chairperson and launched a „regime conference“. At this meeting, the Liberal Democratic Party started repeating the discussion about the idea of what policy system it embodies and what political philosophy builds its foundation. The formulated „Campaign Platform of 2010“ is an official document portraying the ideas of our party, our political attitude, our basic policies and our aimed at national image so that it will be the cornerstone of our party renewal. For the freedom that our party has protected for a long time and our democratic values, the „maintenance of Japaneseness“ plays a crucial role. Our platform is formulated in the spirit of eternal universal values and based on individual independence. Nevertheless, we value the spirit of assistance and helping each other if there are people in need and we believe our country will strongly support those in need. I think, the platform is also linked to the politics of „bonding“ and „public conservatism“ to guarantee public assistance.

Japan's future lies in being sensible to the concerns of citizens and our party members have a deep understanding for this and setting forth this sensibility. Let us create a new Japan with pride and vitality. The

foundation of the party revitalization is party cohesion and I will vow to open the road for revitalization of the LDP with resolute resolve.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

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## **Party Platform 2010 (heisei year 22)**

Recognition of current situation

1. Our party as a conservative party constantly aiming for progress
2. Basic idea of our party's policy
3. Our party aims for pride and vitality in Japan

## **Party Platform 2010 (English Version)**

## **Explanation of the program in 2010 (heisei year 22)**

### **- Japan's conservative party aiming for progress -**

#### **Administrative Concept Conference Chairperson Ibuki Akira**

### **1. A fresh start with the Ideal of Doctrine of Japaneseness**

#### **(1) What is the party platform?**

Why did our party lose in the general election? Just like large companies, a long ruling party struggles with an aging organization and new product planning. In other words, we have settled policies and the party administration specifically for the presedenital election but we were not able to connect those to a new perspective and the public's expectation. I personally think that the two main reasons why we were not able to respond to the people's expectation, were errors in the response to the people and promises by the Democratic Party like the „child allowance“. This being said, Tanigaki explained that in order to reconsider the fundamental problems of our party, we set up an administrative conception conference.

As the chairman of this conference, my first recommendation concerned the management of the party, including the selection of official candidates. My second recommendation concerned the party's basic philosophy. Following this second recommendation, we began to reformulate our party platform and the party convention unanimously decided for this New Code.

Like always, the platform poses the constitution of our party. Based on this constitution, concrete laws and budget plans have been completed, the administration has been enforced and the daily life moves forward. Additionally, the executive department will operate closely with all party organs and party members to promote the basic idea and spirit of the New Code and win the election can be achieved. The new platform does not only apply for the time in which our party is part of the opposition. Even if we gain political power again, the idea for the need for writing an new platform would still be important.

#### **(2) Recognizing the current situation in Japan**

The new platform is divided into four composing parts: recognizing the current situation, the basic character of our party, the basic ideas of its policy and the aimed at national image. We recognize our current status as following.

Domestically, the left and right wings of the Socialist Party were unified and formed the Eastern faction during a sense of an impending crisis to embody the concepts of “anti-communism, anti-socialism, anti-dictatorship, a controlling governance” and “a Japanese Japan” again. The former Liberal Party and Democratic Party unified to bring back the two purposes of freedom and democracy. This way, the LDP was born.

Since then and after the collapse of the Soviet Union, one of the two objectives of our party was achieved. But please take a look at the current Democratic Party of Japan. The Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) is a self-righteous party which is only the ruling party because we created

a high gross national product (GDP) and they promised to raise the “child allowance”, broadcasted compensation expenses for the production costs of rice farmers and adopted a policy of governmental interference with our national citizens’ lives. Since humans are easily manipulated, a continuation of this policy will eliminate the spirit of individual independence and self-help. History already proved that a society in which the government regulated the distribution of money to households will not produce wealth for all people.

And after winning the election, they do not stick to what they promised. If you contradict the meaning of your words you are bound to fail. This is personalization of power and dictatorship. Our party must fight such national socialist rule because otherwise it will increase. We need to feel ashamed of those who tell us that our democracy is “broken” and we need to operate carefully against them.

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### **(3) Consequence of an economic major power losing an important thing**

Until today, our party maintains peace on the basis of the Japan-US Security Treaty and together with the Japanese citizens, Japan became the world’s second largest economic major power. However, for establishing a proud living environment and durable country, independence and diligence are still missing and productivity has already declined due to the aging and general reduction of the labor force. Furthermore, social security expenses are increasing, creating difficulties for the economy in general and public finance. At the same time globalization is still advancing so that cross cultural contact increases. Even if we cherish this, our pride in our traditional way of life and natural disposition has been changed dramatically.

Japanese people highly cherish an independent mind for self-help. People who cannot make a living get help from their neighbors and families. As long as you do not try to only earn money like the new rich, a modest disposition will live one. This is the way Japanese people used to be. We have to regain once more the culture and lifestyle Japan cherishes so much. I would like to reread the precepts of our ancestors once again, which are *bushido*, diligent agricultural work, the heart of master craftsmanship, merchant roads and so on.

Since we have been the ruling party, we protected freedom and democracy. But we must change what is not suitable for present times, protect what is to be maintained and seek progress in order to fulfill international obligations. With Japanese-style conservatism as our political philosophy, our party wants to start over.

We firmly consider all those things as the current issues in our New Code.

## **2. Basic Idea of Party Administration and Policy**

### **(1) Fighting national socialist politics**

In addition to recognizing contemporary issues as described above, our party declares itself as a conservative party which will make a new department on the basis of always aiming for progress.

As we look at the current situation of the Democratic Party’s administration, we see that they try to adopt our party’s political conception of “freedom” which involves telling the truth freely and vigorously, discussing and deciding if the party’s performance is acceptable and reaffirming tradition.

Also, we took control over the Diet in a fair way and advocated a humble attitude while governing. Our party's basic conviction is to not take a political approach like the Democratic Party's so called "Ozawa dictatorship".

## **(2) Constitutional revision to make Japan Japanese again**

First of all, the basic policy and principle of our party is to discipline Japan in a unique Japanese form that can contribute to the world through a reform of the constitution. We also seek to protect Japan's sovereignty with all effort and still fulfill international obligations while not being the only country based on pacifism.

## **(3) A vibrant society by citizens with character**

It is common knowledge that a "conservative party" based on liberalism respects self-reliant individuals and enhances mechanisms for mutual aid, public assistance and social security.

Since citizens are the fundament of a nation, we must acquire firm ties in local communities and families have to be the central part for discipline and education. The revitalization of the bonds and affection of communities and families is our party's basic policy.

History has proofed that only capitalistic economies will be successful. However, a capitalistic economy will surely be guided by inept principles if humans' self-control as the driving force of capitalism will disappear. People who only strive for individual benefit and do not sweat on their foreheads from hard work are not good humans. Profit gained by subcontract-bullying should not be settled. The establishment of an autonomous and orderly market economy is the basic idea of our party.

Following Hugh Cecil's publication "Conservatism", conservatism does not necessarily exclude government intervention. However, it must be a policy profitable for all people. According to the government elected by people, the original idea of conservatism stands in stark contrast to policies and competition conditions that favor only some people and increase inequality.

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Therefore, the government should strive to create fair policies and conditions for all people, such as growth strategies, food security, environmental protection, enrichment of the insurance system, education, etc. We clearly state that those policies will not be developed for only some people but all citizens.

## **(4) Leaving no undesirable debts for future generations**

The most important thing is financial reconciliation. The Democratic Party wants to use the tuition fees of high schools to be able to provide "child allowance". They promised many other things in the general elections. Although they said that the financial resources would increase again after cutting off financial squandering, it would not be enough to cut debts by seven trillion yen until fiscal year 2010 as indicated in their manifesto, but only managed to reduce the financial debts by about 2 trillion yen. Because what is necessary and what is unnecessary differs from person to person. Adjusting this difference without disordering the reality should be an important concern of politics. The Democrats' show of a statute of arbitrary sorting was interesting but naturally produced a lot of opposition. In the end, due to breaking promises, such as not exerting the abolition of the

provisional tariff rate, borrowing money and searching for reserves, we just recently realized part of our commitment.

Concerning the issue of national debt, the Democratic Party only dedicates taxation to be borne by the current voters and this will have drastic consequences for future voters and the future working force who did not have the right to vote in the last general election. It can be described as a loss of generational ethics.

That is why public finance has to be rebalanced. Under the administration of our party, an outstanding amount of national debt has been accumulated. However, we decided not to leave things as they were and in order to restore our economy and devote us to social security financing, we implemented the reform of the tax system, including the consumption tax, since we committed ourselves to this in the previous general election. Our New Code will make the national financial system more efficient and reform the tax system to not deprive future taxpayers of their financial resources.

### **3. National Portray of the Liberal Democratic Party**

#### **(1) Pride, vitality, bonds and fairness – Improving Japan**

On the premise of the “current awareness” that we have stated so far, our party carefully manages the “party’s character and style” and drafts policies based on our “basic idea of party policies”. If we will be able to implement those, “our party aims for pride and vitality in Japan”. This is the national statute of the LDP’s national ideal.

1. We firmly stick to the ideal of individuals being an active member of a family, community and our country. First of all, each citizen is an independent individual with unique features. However, if someone is in need for help, the citizens and community warmly helps each other.
2. Against the background of a beautiful nature and warm human relations, people cherish “harmony and emotional ties” in their families and communities in everyday life.
3. Local and national governments are not only concerned with their own issues but are managed democratically without neglecting consensus building.
4. Efforts of those who are blessed with the opportunity and ability to strive for a better future will be rewarded and supported. The conditions for those possibilities will be established by the government.
5. The government will implement fair policies for all people. We will not implement policies that would relegate a burden to certain organizations, regions or people. We will strive to withdraw from taxation only dedicated to adequate current national debt so that the present generation will not decide the usage of the taxes that future generations will pay. Although the ideal of a “slim government” which we pursued in our 50 years in office has not changed, the criteria for “slim” and “big” changes with transformations in the composition of the population and the changing size in the gross domestic product (GDP). Shouldn’t a government therefore simply refrain from doing unnecessary things?

6. We will fulfill our duty of world peace, contribute to common values of humanity and aim for a virtuous country, so that Japan is loved by the world.

Points 1. to 6. follow our political philosophy which entails the maintenance of the Japanese way of life we cherish. This involves pride, "independence, harmony and emotional ties, morality". It means to evolve into a warm and lively Japanese society which has been characterised by a declining birthrate for a long time.

## **(2) The platform as the foundation of our party**

The question arises in what way this platform will differ from the Democratic Party's one. The biggest difference between our party and the Democratic Party is that we have our own real objectives.

To the Democratic Party: there are currently several people occupying cabinet seats who worked on the former Socialist Party platform. Did these people abandon socialism and now participate in the Democratic Party? Many left the party because they lost their will to struggle to get posted. Some civil activists say that citizens' short-term objectives are more important and individuals are more important than the country as a whole. Because the Democratic Party is a mixture of all those people, they have no real platform, no unifying common philosophy and have no consistent policy. Therefore, it is really regrettable if their policies would pass immediately after the election campaign. The Communist Party is unified by communism. Although the character of the Social Democratic Party has changed, it is certain that they will move towards a more socialistic policy. In contrast, the Democratic Party has no objective. A party which only consists of politicians switching between parties just to become a minister and to not experience possible disadvantages in elections, can naturally not possess an objective. Only when people come together because they share the same ideals and platform a party exists. A politician without a political philosophy and only aiming for immediate gain through being a member of the assembly will certainly be criticized. We should always remember that we are human beings with firm convictions before we are politicians.

## **(3) What has changed in the new platform?**

Next, I will answer the question what has changed in this new platform. Shortly speaking, our political philosophy stayed the same and our political philosophy is that our economy will grow, peoples' lives will improve, internationalization will advance, longevity will be achieved and the declining birthrate in Japan is inevitable. Whether we can contribute to the people or not, there are major changes mentioned in our current basic policy. It can be seen as an expansion of the already existing program. We want to inherit the spirit of the previous platforms, complement the former incompatible aspect and prepare ourselves for the future.

## **(4) The executive department has courage in recovering political power**

In accordance with the New Code, the Executive Committee, including President Tanigaki, hopes to continue to bring our party to a prosperous future. The Secretary General manages the party according to this program and also the political chairman chooses all policies on this basis. All

members will cooperate under this program, even if it will be tough, they will endure and each will strive for our aims at their residences. For this objective, the president creates the adequate atmosphere and takes responsibility. That way, the trust of people in our party will surely recover and we can regain our position as the ruling party.

Now, with this new spirit, let us strive for a fresh start.

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# Party Platform 2010

## A Fresh Start

— To Build a Nation Infused With Dreams, Hope, and Pride —

### The Current Situation

Our party was founded in 1955 on the belief that “Politics Belongs to the People”. The party was founded to pursue two specific objectives – “Anti-socialist, anti-dictatorship, anti-central planning governance” and “the establishment of a Japan that truly reflects the essence of Japan”. The collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the dismantling of the Soviet Union can be regarded as victories for our party in that one of the two above-mentioned goals was achieved.

During the years leading up to these events, our party stoically endured the “criticisms for criticism’s sake” that were rained upon us by the socialist parties as we considered it more important to unflinchingly face reality, and to continually uphold enduring peace through foreign policy built on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as its cornerstone. As a result, together with the people of Japan, our party nurtured this nation into the second largest economy in the world.

With increased presence in the world Japan has gained much from the advancing globalization, but we are also beginning to lose many aspects of the cherished culture and traditions that are unique to Japan. Although on the one hand we can feel enormous pride in achieving one of the longest life expectancies in the world, we are, as a result, suffering from public-finance dysfunction – the consequence of our slowing economic growth, and the deteriorating government finances. It is generally believed that the falling birthrate and the resulting decline in the population will lower the productivity of any country. It is incumbent on us to prove to the world that we can transform these realities into a future filled with “brightness” and “hope”, achieve economic growth, and enrich the lives of its people by undertaking a variety of initiatives which, collectively, will enable Japan to better adapt to ongoing globalization; initiatives that will counter the falling birthrate while raising productivity by concentrating the nation’s resources into enhancing education and the further

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development of science and technology; initiatives that will ensure that older persons will be able to actively contribute to society; and policies to raise the quality of the population as a whole.

Under the Emperor – the symbol of the state and the unity of the people – we have built the Japan of today, a nation of peace. We are a people that from the very beginning of our history have considered hard work a virtue, and regarded the attainment of self-reliance to be a thing of great honor. We also warmly embrace those who have not been blessed with the abilities or opportunities to strive on their own, for we are a people with strong bonds in families and local communities. We are a people that deeply treasure a sense of belonging – to our families, to local communities, and to our nation; we consider it both an honor and a duty to contribute to society.

These are some of the aspects of our national character, the elements that have helped to form our traditional ways of life – the natural environment that has given rise to Japanese culture, the personal conduct of our people, a way of life in which we venerate our ancestors who are, after all, the foundation of not only our own generation, but of all previous and future ones – these are the elements of the Japanese character that we believe should be recognized afresh. In other words, this is what we hold to be the second great goal for which our party was founded: “to establish a Japan that best reflects the essential nature of what is Japanese”.

Having engaged in serious soul-searching after the heavy defeat that our party suffered in the general elections in 2009, we are now resolved to make a fresh start under the twin banners of “liberalism” and “democracy”, concepts we have staunchly defended ever since the establishment of our party, embracing as its political philosophy a distinctly Japanese style of conservatism – one that reflects the essential nature of Japan, a nation that fulfills its international obligations. We shall revise and change only what is no longer appropriate for this current age, while continuing steadfastly to maintain what should and must be safeguarded and we shall pursue progress while seeing to it that order is maintained.

The liberalism we have long defended is neither a belief in market fundamentalism, nor a belief that a government should be allowed to intervene at will. Neither is it a belief in a culture that accommodates unbridled egoism of those liberals who claim to be socially

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underprivileged. We wish to reaffirm our belief in the true meaning of liberalism: a “freedom” that is created by self-reliant individuals possessing both ingenuity and a sense of duty, who work to create a society where free choice is possible, one in which all are regarded with respect and tolerance, and offered a helping hand in times of need.

We therefore will never adopt socialistic policies where the gross national product – the result of the hard work and efforts of the people – is simply taken and re-distributed for people’s livelihood based on the decisions made dogmatically by the ruling parties alone, creating a nation where eventually the people will lose their spirit of self-reliance.

Further, we must fiercely oppose the rule of a type of state-sponsored socialism, which, under the slogan of “political leadership”, continually ignores the voices of those who hold differing opinions, and dictatorially forces dogmatic decisions of the ruling parties upon all others.

We must resolutely fight against policies that endanger the very sovereignty of Japan, and that hamper the creation of “a Japan that best reflects the essential nature of what is Japanese”. Our party, putting itself in the shoe of the self-reliant taxpayers who have worked steadfastly in the past, who are working earnestly today, and who will be working hard in the future, shall engage in a politics that gives a sense of reassurance. As the new Liberal Democratic Party we shall work even more closely with the people to create both a present and a future where people can have peace of mind.

## I We are a conservative political party that constantly seeks progress

- ① Based on a correct understanding of liberalism and a truly democratic system, we shall revise and change what no longer is appropriate for the current era, yet maintain and protect what should be safeguarded. Always bearing in mind a respect for order, we shall consistently strive to achieve steady progress.
- ② We shall be courageous in freely and openly speaking the truth; through vigorous deliberations and discussions, we shall make bold decisions.

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- ③ We shall engage in dialogue and coordination with diverse organizations; manage the Diet in a fair manner; and we shall humbly ensure the proper functioning of the government.

## II The fundamental thinking underlying the policies of our party are as follows:

- ① We shall seek to establish a new Constitution that presents a vision of the nation that best reflects the essential nature of Japan and allows Japan to truly contribute to the world.
- ② The sovereignty of Japan shall be protected through our own efforts. We shall fulfill our obligations in line with the realities of the international community. Further, we reject the ideology of “one-country pacifism (i.e. Japanese should be content as long as Japan is peaceful) .
- ③ We respect individuals who strive to achieve their own self-reliance; we shall therefore work to ensure that conditions and environments are created for such individuals to thrive. At the same time, we shall enhance the systems that offer mutual and public aid equitably to all people.
- ④ We shall establish a market economy that is both self-sustaining and orderly.
- ⑤ We shall endeavor to restore the warmth of human ties within families and local communities.
- ⑥ The government shall strive to create conditions and policies that are fair and just for all persons, in areas such as:
  - a) The maintenance of law and order;
  - b) Diplomacy and security;
  - c) Growth strategies and employment measures;

- d) Education, research and development in science and technology;
- e) Environmental conservation; and
- f) Social security safety nets.

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- ⑥ We shall consolidate government finances through increased efficiencies and revisions to the tax system, in order to ensure that we do not deprive future taxpayers of their right to determine how their tax monies – the results of the sweat of their labors – will be spent.

### III Our party seeks to realize a Japan that is illed with vitality and a sense of quiet pride

- ① A people that possess a keen sense of belonging – to their families, to local communities, and to the nation; a people that seek self-reliance and at the same time offer mutual aid.
- ② A life filled with “harmony and human ties”— the beauty of natural surroundings and the warmth of human relationships.
- ③ National and regional government that make decisions under a democratic system, one that never fails to try to achieve consensus.
- ④ A society where those who work hard are rewarded, and those not blessed with the abilities or opportunities to strive are helped by all. A government that does all it can to create the conditions to make this possible.
- ⑤ A government that executes policies that are fair and just for all. A government that endeavors to reduce the national debt outstanding, so that the options for future generations are not impaired.
- ⑥ A Japan that fulfills its duties to ensure world peace, a virtuous nation that contributes to values that are embraced by all of humanity.

If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to the following address. We are waiting for it.

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