

347. Promoting decentralization

Based on recommendations of the Decentralization Reform Promotion Committee¹³³ and on discussions of the Government's Decentralization Reform Promotion Headquarters and the Decentralization Reform Experts Conference, we will steadily advance our efforts such as (1) transferring administrative authority from the national to the regional level, (2) reviewing obligations and framing the scope of tasks, (3) securing basic finances such as local taxes or tax allocation which are essential for a stable fiscal management of local public entities.

348. Strengthening regional functions by decentralization

We will carry out a thorough consolidation of national and rural areas by using the six regional organizations¹³⁴ such as the National Governors Association to conduct consultations. In addition to enhancing the functions of local councils whose roles are expanding via decentralization, we aim to clarify and legislate the scope of legal responsibilities and duties of local assembly member by grasping the opinions of residents.

349. Promoting the *Doshu* system¹³⁵

The *Doshu* system fundamentally reforms the ideal way and the governance structure of our country. We revised the centralized system, formed a decentralized state, eliminate squandering by revitalizing regional economies and societies, form a multipolar nation, improve the efficiency of administrative and financial entities throughout the nation and eliminate double and triple administration. We thereby advance a true administrative reform.

Since the existence of the state is related to the nation, we will concentrate on national functions such as the national crisis management, protecting lives, health and property of citizens and an improved infrastructure for the national economy. The *Doshu* system is part of these national functions since it encompasses regional management with international competitiveness and the citizens-orientated work of municipalities as local public organizations familiar to residents.

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Therefore, we will promptly establish the "Basic Law on the Promotion of the *Doshu* System" and aim to introduce the *Doshu* system within the next five years after taking up a public debate to carefully consider local and other opinions.

350. National personnel authority recommendation system

We respect recommendations by national personnel authorities to secure appropriate salaries for national civil servants as a compensatory measure based on the constitutional basic labor rights.

¹³³ Established in April 2007 by the Cabinet Office to investigate and discuss basic aspects of promoting decentralization.

¹³⁴ Collective name for the National Governors Association, National Mayors Association, National Town Village Association, National Prefectural Assembly and National City Council.

¹³⁵ System to restrict and abolish national authorities and creates wide administrative bodies integrated in multiple prefectures and transfers authority as well as financial resources.

