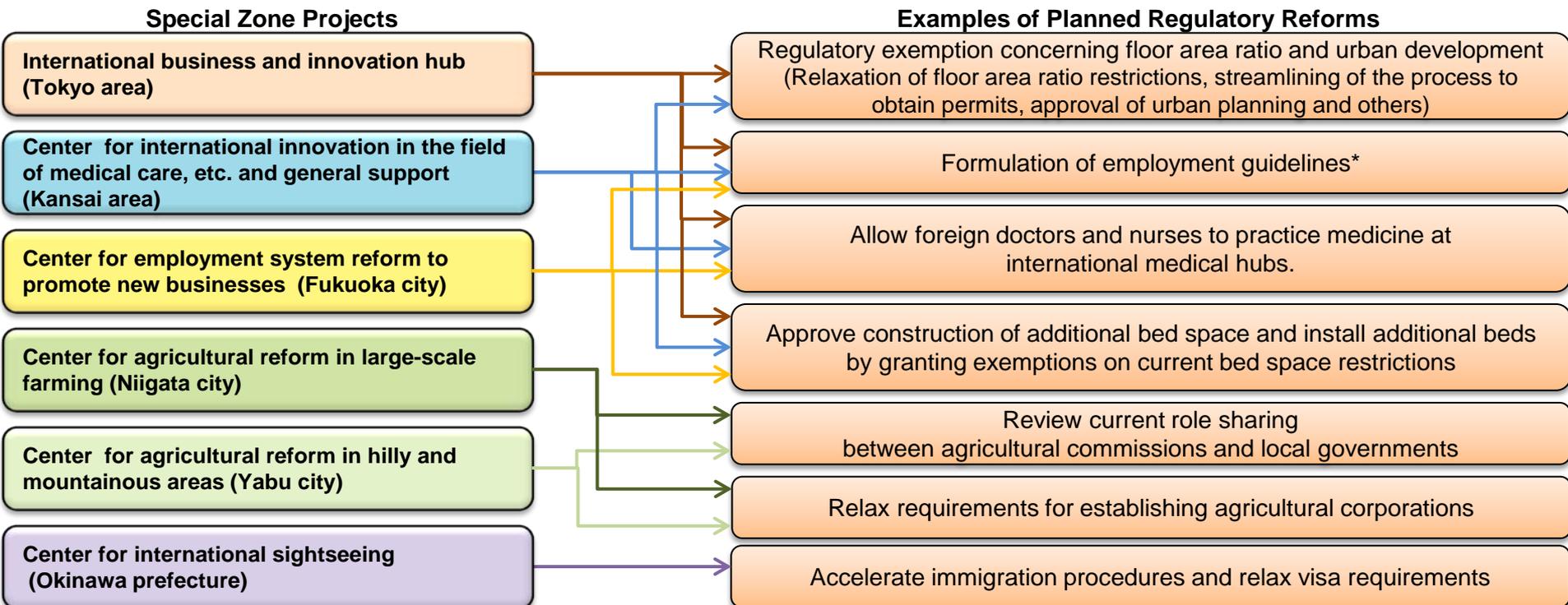


Establishment of National Strategic Special Zones

- In implementing the Growth Strategy, the Prime Minister has taken the initiative to establish National Strategic Special Zones that will serve as a gateway for enterprising regulatory reforms. The extraordinary Diet session in autumn 2013 approved the legal framework to facilitate this initiative.
- The first proposed special zones, Tokyo, Kansai, Niigata, Yabu, Fukuoka and Okinawa were selected in March 2014.
- Planned projects for some special zones will be agreed by summer 2014 at the earliest, following cooperation between national and local governments and the private sector.

Examples of regulatory reforms within the National Strategic Special Zones



*Regulatory reforms concerning employment

- To ensure clarity and to address concerns raised by overseas companies, employment guidelines have been formulated, taking into account past court cases. An entity to provide businesses with contractual advice on employment issues will be established for each special zone to assist businesses with legal compliance.
- A bill is under deliberation in the current ordinary Diet session to review the duration of employment required before employees become eligible to apply for open-ended contracts. This applies to employees with specialized knowledge/skills on limited period employment contracts.