

Basic Policy

(Cabinet Decision of January 14, 2011)

The three political-level appointees [of each Ministry, etc.], headed by each Cabinet Minister, will devote themselves to their duties in accordance with the following Basic Policy.

1. We will revisit the starting point of the historic change of government, and the government and the ruling coalition will push forward in concert to bring about the policies we pledged to the people through politicians [rather than the bureaucracy] taking the initiative [on policymaking] and leadership by the Prime Minister's Office.
2. Regarding this year as the base year for launching a 21st-century opening up of Japan, we will aim for the Japanese people as a whole to be active internationally as occurred in the Meiji Restoration and in the postwar era, through trade liberalization and the revival of agriculture in which young people participate. In addition, we will achieve a society in which human suffering is reduced to a minimum, dispelling the public's anxiety and other concerns regarding the issues of poverty and unemployment and the social security system. We will also adopt as our fundamental stance the rectifying of issues that the public finds absurd.
3. In order to create a society in which the people can have hopes for the future, we will engage in good-faith efforts to rebuild in an integrated manner the economy, public finances, and the social security system while implementing the New Growth Strategy steadily and rapidly.
4. In order to break away from the structure leaning towards centralization of authority existing since the Meiji Era and move forward in a new building of the nation, we will actively drive forward with reforms to engender regional sovereignty, including an expansion of the block grant system and the abolition in principle of local agencies of national government entities.
5. Each Minister will, as a member of the Kan Cabinet chosen by the Diet, which represents the people, from a comprehensive standpoint as a Minister of State, engage in domestic and international policy issues through united efforts under the direction of Prime Minister Naoto Kan, without becoming entrenched in undertakings aimed at furthering the interests of only his or her own Ministry.
6. From the perspective of effectively utilizing limited human and budgetary resources, we will root out waste in public administration and promote greater transparency of public administration by advancing the disclosure of information further.
7. The three political-level appointees and bureaucrats will clearly delineate their respective roles and responsibilities and engage in the close sharing of information with each other and in mutual communication. They will engage in full-fledged policy management through the entire government operating in a unified manner, with true leadership by politicians.