

Preamble

Japan and China marked the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations last year, and various commemorative events were held. This year also marks the 45th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China. Furthermore, since the end of last year, with the easing or elimination of epidemic prevention measures related to the COVID-19, comings and goings of people, which is the foundation of exchange and business between the two countries, is beginning to resume. Against this backdrop, we hope that mutual exchange between Japan and China will become even more active and further promote the economic development of both countries.

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China has been publishing this White Paper since 2010 in order to promote further dialogue with the central government and local governments in China. This White Paper is a summary of the proposals for analysing and solving the issues faced by Japanese member companies of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China and other chambers of commerce and industry throughout China (a total of 8,353 corporate members). It is divided into 4 sections: "Current Status of the Chinese Economy and Japanese Companies", "Common Issues and Proposals", "Current Status of Each Industry and Proposals" and "Current State of Each Region and Proposals" and consisting of 28 chapters and 55 proposal items. What is depicted in the White Paper is nothing, but the current status of the Chinese economy seen through the eyes of Japanese companies and highlighted various issues encountered in the process of doing business in China by Japanese companies that have been engaging in business in China for a long period of time.

At the 1st meeting of the 14th National People's Congress held in March 2023, it was indicated that the government will focus on promoting high-quality development, fully deepen reform and opening-up, and further focus on attracting and utilizing foreign investment. Securing "Non-Discriminatory Status", which is the main request point of this White Paper, is the foundation for realizing above-mentioned goals and is indispensable for China to improve the quality of development. I am convinced that when the Chinese government seeks to deepen reforms, many points that are included in this White Paper will be beneficial.

In the reform and opening up of Chinese economy, the importance of foreign capital is immeasurable, and in particular, the roles played by Japanese companies are extremely important. In recent years, with the increasing uncertainty about the circumstances surrounding the world, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China will take over the achievement of its predecessors, further strengthening the economic cooperation relationship between Japan and China and will continue to actively propose to the China's central government and local governments to further improve the business environment in China.

This White Paper is made up with precious contributions that member companies of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China provided us while engaging in their own work. This White Paper reflects the opinions gathered not only from the Chamber, but also from other chambers of commerce and industry throughout China. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for all those who have made a great contribution.

I sincerely hope that through this White Paper, it shall facilitate dialogues between Japan and China and strengthen the bond of the two countries, thus leading to further prosperity together.



Tetsuro Homma
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