

To Develop Originality and Self-reliance Among Local Communities

Office for Decentralization Reform

- To promote decentralization reforms to provide quality and efficient public service

The Concept of Decentralization Reform in Japan

Mission To develop originality and self-reliance of local community
 -- To provide deregulation and devolution for local governments

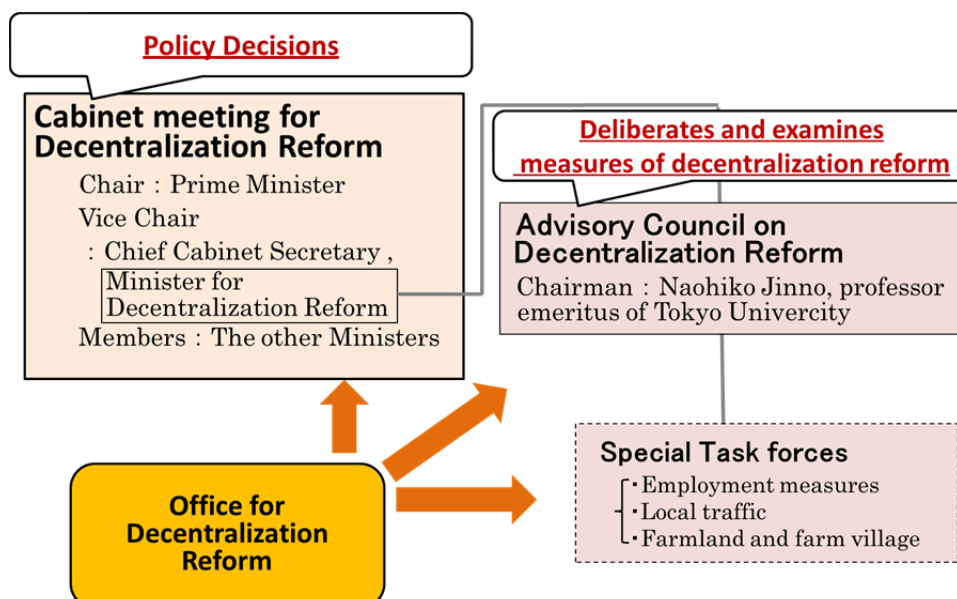
Vision

- Quality and efficient public service
- To foster distinctive features of the locality
- To involve local stakeholders in the communities

Approach To Build a new decentralization reform promoting system



System for Promoting Decentralization Reform



Main Efforts and Achievements of the Decentralization Reform

Main efforts in recent years are “devolution of authority from the central government to local governments and from local governments to the municipalities” and “deregulation on local government.”

Examples

Devolution of authority

Municipalities that are more familiar to the residents can provide more comprehensive and flexible service

Ex. A prefecture transferred passport application acceptance and insurance offices to the municipalities.
⇒ -More Passport Centers(4 → 21) **allow local residents to apply more nearby.**
- **One-stop procedure** in a municipal office
- Speedier issuance (**6 days → 4 days**)

Ex. A prefecture transferred authentication of NPO establishment to the municipalities.
⇒ The municipalities **can collaborate with NPOs and support them comprehensively.**

Deregulation on local governments

Local governments are allowed to legislate by ordinances on their own

Ex. A city changed the public housing standards of the fatherless household by a city ordinance, and the household with junior high school students can apply for public housing.
⇒ Applicants of young families have increased by 4% and the **quality of support to the parenting generation has improved.**

Ex. A prefecture loosened standards on the width of sidewalk by a prefecture ordinance (2m → 1.5m)
⇒ **To enhance pedestrian safety** by expanding safe sidewalks on narrow roads.

The Forum for Consultations between the Central and Local Governments

The central government and local governments discuss issues concerning local governments in this forum.

○Agenda

…Decentralization reform, the budget draft of the central government, economic policy packages, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games etc.



For details (in Japanese only) →

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