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**JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (JCCI)**

**SPEECH AT ANNUAL VIETNAM BUSINESS FORUM 2017**

*Presented by*

*Hiroshi Karashima*

*Chairman*

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Karashima, chairman of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vietnam.

I would like to put forward here several suggestions related to Administrative Procedure Reform that Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc works energetically.

First of all, we – the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) – highly appreciate the aggressive efforts of the Vietnamese government, with strong leadership of Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, to make the administrative procedure system more simple and speedy.

However, due to lack of adequate understanding of officer, sloppy communication among different ministries, and uncertainty in interpreting legislation, many foreign enterprises are still forced to spend their time and cost for administrative procedure.

We are concerned that a public administration system with such a lack of transparency and certainty may seriously undermine Vietnam’s attractiveness as a destination for investment, as investors will dodge Vietnam and turn to other countries. We hope that the Vietnamese government will undertake more powerful actions to solve those issues.

Based on above awareness, in our position paper at the Midterm Vietnam Business Forum (VBF) in June this year, JCCI put forward two proposals with the Vietnamese government as described below.

Our first proposal is “**To establish a new organization across ministries which has an authorized power to strongly proceed to solve any problem caused by this uncertainty** ". In particular, we proposed that the “Committee” chaired by the Prime Minister and with ministers on board quickly make a counterplan to complaints from the private sectors consulting with a “Professional team” embedded within the Government Office.

Our second proposal is “**To enhance the current “official letter” scheme, in order to let foreign corporations to easily access relevant ministries and government organizations to check the legality of certain business action**". Due to the time constraints, I skip the details.

Today, we would like to get a feedback from the Prime Minister on these two proposals.

We also would like to highly evaluate the passionate efforts of the Advisory Council for Administrative Procedure Reform (ACAPR) in recent years relating to administrative procedure reform. In particular, the dialogues taking place among Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, head of the Government Office Mai Tien Dung, and ACAPR members on August 16 this year, as well as the discussions between related ministries and JCCI regarding a review of regulation and administrative procedure

Given the recent strong and dedicated efforts of ACAPR, we would like to propose to put a new organization mechanism which we proposed at midterm VBF under the ACAPE. What this mechanism specifically entails include:

* To establish a “Professional team” which consists of private sector and foreign enterprises under ACAPR;
* Each chambers and Commerce and Industry put forward their highest priority request to the “Professional team”.
* The “Professional team" make a concrete counterplan within a few months which will be reported to the Prime Minister by ACAPR.
* The Prime Minister discusses with ministers and makes decisions, giving full respect to these counterplans.

Today, we would like to get a feedback from the Prime Minister to this proposal.

We, JCCI have high hopes that the government of Vietnam will implement today’s proposal for strengthen openness, transparency and the promptness of administrative procedures, so that Vietnam will be more attractive destination for foreign investors.