



経済産業省  
近畿経済産業局

# **For the Future of the Kansai Economy**

**～METI-Kansai Initiatives to Support Innovation～**

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1. Direction of Innovation Policy in Japan
2. The Base for Innovation in Kansai Region
3. METI-Kansai Initiatives to Support Innovation
4. EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan

# 1. Direction of Innovation Policy in Japan

### 1. Focused Investment Areas for the Realization of a New Form of Capitalism

#### (1) Investment in and distribution to people

##### ◆ Upskilling (investment in human capital)

- Provide a **package of measures to budget about 400 billion yen for three years** until FY2024.
- **Formulate rules on non-financial information disclosure** during this year, revise the form of quarterly disclosure.
- Promote recurrent education, support smooth labor mobility, ensure the thorough implementation of equal pay for equal work.

##### ◆ Promoting diverse work styles

- Job-type employment, discretionary labor system, side or multiple jobs, selective four-day work week.
- Promote high-quality telework, create an environment that allows freelancers to work without troubles.

##### ◆ Achieving High-quality education

- **Expand scholarship grants, etc., for students from middle-class families including households with multiple children, and offer a flexible repayment arrangements (repayment upon success in career).**
- **Strengthen the function of universities, etc.** (promotion of reorganization centering around growing fields, target setting for the percentage of students studying natural sciences [about 50%, etc.], development of human resources beyond the boundaries of the humanities and sciences)

##### ◆ Increase in wages and raising minimum wages

- **Further build up the momentum for wage increases** (support for business reconstruction, productivity improvement, etc., development of an environment that allows for a fair passing of increased costs to prices).
- Aim to raise **mandatory minimum wages to at least 1,000 yen on a national weighted average** as soon as possible.

##### ◆ “Doubling Asset-based Incomes Plan” for “a shift from Savings to Investment”

- **Formulate the comprehensive Doubling Asset-based Incomes Plan by the end of this year** by deploying every possible policy measure, including the drastic expansion of NISA and the reforming of iDeCo.

#### (2) Investment in science, technology and innovation

- **Drive drastic expansion of investment in quantum technologies, AI, biotechnology, and medical fields through public-private collaboration.**
- **Give greater focus on the fields of space and ocean.**
- Establish a governance system and implement regulatory reforms to develop **globally competitive research universities; drastically strengthen** strategic management of **regional core universities, etc.,** through means such as government-industry-academia collaboration.
- Strongly promote the support for young human resources (**deepening of measures to help them devote themselves to research, vitalization of international global brain circulation** including the progressive implementation of the “Tobitate! (Leap for Tomorrow) Study Abroad Initiative” program).

#### (3) Investment in startups (new establishments)

- **Clarify the “control tower” function** to implement the investment, **formulate a five-year startup development plan by the end of this year** to increase by 10 times in five years.
- **Provide an environment that facilitates fund procurement** (review of the IPO process, expansion of venture capital investment).
- **Develop and secure human resources who can support startups;** support the matching of management talents, etc., with startups.
- Support R&D and sales channel cultivation, vitalize open innovation.

#### (4) Investment in green transformation (GX)

- **Formulate a roadmap to decarbonization by the end of the year** based on the clean energy strategy interim report under public-private partnerships.
- To realize a public-private investment of more than 150 trillion yen, consider raising prior government funds through **“GX Economy Transition Bonds (tentative name)”**, backed by future financial resources and providing investment support in a foreseeable manner, while **embodiment of the vision of “Pro-Growth Carbon Pricing.”**
- Embody the “investment promotion measure that integrates regulation and support”, develop step-by-step and utilize the GX League, make use of transition finance and other novel financial techniques.
- Accelerate regional decarbonization (develop human resources, decarbonize corporate management, provide funds, etc.).

#### (5) Investment in digital transformation (DX)

- Review laws and regulations, etc., based on the plan to comprehensively review regulations in accordance with digital principles within the next three years in order to achieve **compliance with the Digital Principles.**
- Self-driving cars and eVTOL (electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing), DX and standardization in the fields of logistics and people flow, MaaS, technology roadmap, **looking into ways to resolve vendor lock-in, Cyber Security Strategy**
- **Promote digitalization of administrative procedures, promote the use of Individual Number Card (“My Number Card”).**
- Develop data platforms for medical care, long-term care, etc.
- **Revise the Local Government DX Promotion Plan,** promote the digitalization of local governments.

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