

Profile of the Prime Minister's Commission on Japan's Goals in the 21st Century

On January 18, 2000, members of the Prime Minister's Commission on Japan's Goals in the 21st Century submitted its final report titled "The Frontier Within: Individual Empowerment and Better Governance in the New Millennium" to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi after approximately ten months of intense deliberations and consultations. The Prime Minister established the Commission on March 30, 1999, appointing sixteen leading private citizens from diverse fields of expertise as its members (see the accompanying list). The mandate of the Commission was to produce a report for the Prime Minister on the desirable future direction of Japan to which the next generation of Japanese can aspire in the new century, thus encouraging a broader national debate on the subject.

The Commission comprised five subcommittees with thirty-three additional experts drawn from various fields (see the accompanying lists). Each subcommittee was assigned one of five themes: (1) Japan's Place in the World, (2) Prosperity and Dynamism, (3) Achieving a Contented and Enriching Life, (4) A Beautiful Country and a Safe Society, and (5) Future of the Japanese.

The Commission met four times and the subcommittees met forty times in the course of eight months, and Prime Minister Obuchi participated in eleven of those meetings. The Prime Minister also attended an overnight retreat held in the outskirts of Tokyo on August 6 and 7, 1999. In keeping with the Prime Minister's hope that the working process of the Commission be open to the public, minutes of the proceedings of the Commission and subcommittee meetings were posted on the Web site, and opinions and concrete recommendations were actively solicited from the public through e-mail and fax. Eighteen young leaders selected from those submitting policy proposals were invited to the Prime Minister's official residence on November 15, 1999, for a two-hour dialogue with the Prime Minister. In a similar vein, several key members of the Commission traveled abroad in October and November 1999 to undertake a series of consultations with intellectual leaders and political leaders of Southeast Asia (Singapore), North America (Washington, D.C.), South Korea, China, and Europe (Paris). The Commission members are planning to participate in various efforts to disseminate the Commission Report in the hope that the analysis and recommendations presented in the Report will stimulate a broad national debate as well as active external dialogue on the future direction of Japan.

Members of the Prime Minister's Commission on Japan's Goals in the 21st Century

Chairperson:

Hayao Kawai Director-General, International Research Center for Japanese Studies

Members:

Akira Amano President, Japan Pediatric Association

Tamotsu Asami Deputy Managing Director, Chuokoron-Shinsha

Yoichi Funabashi Chief Diplomatic Correspondent and Columnist, *The Asahi Shimbun*

Masako Hoshino Director, Japan NPO Center

Makoto Iokibe Professor, Kobe University; President, The Japanese Political Science Association

Heita Kawakatsu Professor, International Research Center for Japanese Studies

Yotaro Kobayashi Chairman of the Board, Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.; Chairman, Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai)

Akira Kojima	Director and Editorial Page Editor, <i>The Nihon Keizai Shimbun</i>
Akira Miyoshi	Composer; Director-General, Tokyo Metropolitan Festival Hall
Chiaki Mukai	Science Astronaut, National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA)
Keiko Nakamura	Deputy Director General, JT Biohistory Research Hall
Yuri Okina	Senior Economist, The Japan Research Institute
Takeshi Sasaki	Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo
Tadashi Yamamoto	President, Japan Center for International Exchange; Executive Director, Prime Minister's Commission on Japan's Goals in the 21st Century
Masakazu Yamazaki	Playwright; Critic; Professor Emeritus, Osaka University

Members of the Subcommittees

(* member of the Commission)

Subcommittee 1 Japan's Place in the World

Chairperson:

*Makoto Iokibe Professor, Kobe University; President, The Japanese Political Science Association

Members:

Keiko Chino Editorial Writer, *Sankei Shimbun*
 *Yoichi Funabashi Chief Diplomatic Correspondent and Columnist, *The Asahi Shimbun*
 Shinichi Kitaoka Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo
 Ryosei Kokubun Professor, Faculty of Law and Politics, Keio University
 Hiroshi Nakanishi Associate Professor, Department of Law, Kyoto University
 Natsuo Sekikawa Author; Critic
 Yoshihide Soeya Professor, Faculty of Law and Politics, Keio University
 Kurayoshi Takara Professor of History, College of Law and Letters, University of the Ryukyus
 Akihiko Tanaka Professor, Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo

Subcommittee 2 Prosperity and Dynamism

Chairperson:

*Yotaro Kobayashi Chairman of the Board, Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.; Chairman, Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai)

Members:

Mikio Akiyama Attorney at Law
 Yoshinori Hiroi Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Economics, University of Chiba
 Mikiko Iwasaki Associate Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tsukuba
 Haruo Naito President and CEO, Eisai Co., Ltd.
 *Yuri Okina Senior Economist, The Japan Research Institute
 Ken-ichiro Oohara President, Ohara Museum of Art
 *Takeshi Sasaki Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo
 *Tadashi Yamamoto President, Japan Center for International Exchange
 Taizo Yakushiji Vice President and Professor, Keio University

Subcommittee 3 Achieving a Contented and Enriching Life

Chairperson:

*Keiko Nakamura Deputy Director General, JT Biohistory Research Hall

Members:

*Masako Hoshino Director, Japan NPO Center
Takenori Inoki Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Osaka University
*Akira Kojima Director and Editorial Page Editor, *The Nihon Keizai Shimbun*
Taro Maki Journalist; Reporter, *Mainichi Newspaper*
Hiroko Minami President and Professor, College of Nursing Art & Science, Hyogo
Yoichiro Murakami Professor, International Christian University
Ken Sakamura Professor, Digital Museum Laboratory, University Museum, University of Tokyo
Naomi Sento Film Director

Subcommittee 4 A Beautiful Country and a Safe Society

Chairperson:

*Heita Kawakatsu Professor, International Research Center for Japanese Studies

Members:

*Akira Amano President, Japan Pediatric Association
*Tamotsu Asami Deputy Managing Director, Chuokoron-Shinsha
Mie Hama Actress
Masaaki Homma Vice President; Professor and Director of Economics, Osaka University
Toyo Ito Architect
Koharu Kisaragi Playwright; Art Director
Reiko Kuroda Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo
Takafumi Matsui Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo
Kazuhiro Ueta Professor of Environmental Economics and Public Finance, Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

Subcommittee 5 Future of the Japanese

Chairperson:

*Masakazu Yamazaki Playwright; Critic; Professor Emeritus, Osaka University

Members:

Takashi Mikuriya Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
Yuko Miyazaki Attorney at Law
*Akira Miyoshi Composer; Director-General, Tokyo Metropolitan Festival Hall
*Chiaki Mukai Science Astronaut, National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA)
Emiko Ochiai Associate Professor, International Research Center for Japanese Studies
Hatsuhisa Takashima Executive Controller-General, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)
Kiyotada Tsutsui Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University
Kiyokazu Washida Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Osaka University

Office for the Prime Minister's Commission on Japan's Goals in the 21st Century, Cabinet Secretariat

Director: Jun Wada

Assistant Directors: Satoshi Ashidate, Kazuya Endo, Yoshihiro Hashimoto, Seiichi Inoue, Kenji Okamura, Kotaro Omae, Taizo Takahashi

Staff: Nobuo Iijima, Tomoko Suzuki