

**Blue Economy Suruga Bay International Roundtable
Proposal**

May 13, 2023

Key Points of the Proposal

- The promotion of new capitalism, especially the creation of new industries originating from local regions, is an urgent issue for the Japanese economy. Meanwhile, the ocean is of growing international importance as a policy field from the perspectives of environmental conservation, economic development, and security. The ocean is an important area for the creation of local industries.
- We expect the following initiatives under the leadership of the government.
 1. Japan should show its leadership to the world by presenting a maritime version of the Digital Garden City State concept as a model in an international framework.
 2. To create an organization that will serve as a platform for national leadership on sustainable marine conservation and development, such as “the Council for the Future of the Sea”, to serve as a driving force
 3. As a concrete showcase, the government should be actively involved in the Suruga Bay Smart Ocean Concept, an advanced initiative that is underway.

Executive Summary

1. Introduction "Realization of new capitalism in the ocean world"

The oceans are of increasing importance in this century in terms of environmental protection, economic activity, and national and regional security. In particular, the ocean's ability to absorb CO₂ is essential to achieving carbon neutrality.

At the same time, the ocean is positioned as a "Commons" shared by humankind, and its conservation and utilization are characterized by the common interests of humanity. And the potential economic power of ocean-related industries has attracted global attention in recent years. In Japan, a policy to realize a new capitalism from the local level has been put forth, and activating economic activities that contribute to the maintenance of a sustainable marine environment from the local level is an effective direction to take.

Therefore, it is strongly expected that the "marine version" of the government's Digital Garden City initiatives will be implemented to realize marine conservation while solving the problems of declining population, aging society, and hollowing out of

industry in the regions, with the theme of a sustainable marine environment rich in both people and nature, and that these pioneering efforts in the regions will be widely spread throughout the country and the world. It is strongly hoped that these pioneering efforts by local communities will be widely disseminated throughout the country and the world.

2. Direction Japan should take

The oceans play a major role in the global environment, but there is much that is scientifically unexplored. The United Nations has designated the decade beginning in 2021 as the "United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" and is promoting scientific efforts on the oceans in order to achieve the SDGs. With a sense of speed, it is important to acquire diverse ocean data (physical, chemical, biological, and environmental data), analyze and visualize them as digital big data using AI, create new industries, develop the blue economy (ocean-related industries and economy), and promote both environmental conservation and economic growth. In particular, a large ripple effect can be expected from the acquisition of information on ships, ports, and weather, and from the centralized management of information not only on the sea and sea surface, but also under the sea (ocean transformation).

Japan, as a maritime superpower, should show leadership and take the lead in promoting initiatives toward a sustainable blue economy and the establishment of a global network. In particular, it is important to contribute to the development of the Indo-Pacific region, and cooperation on the blue economy by Japan and other developed countries with ASEAN countries, which are maritime nations, will greatly contribute to the development of the Indo-Pacific region. In the Middle East and the increasingly important African countries, there are great expectations for a sustainable blue economy, including fisheries and port development, and the G7 countries should work for international cooperation in these areas.

To this end, the wisdom of Japan's industry, academia, and government should be brought together to promote major changes in ocean policy and ocean transformation, which will require integrated efforts by a wide range of ocean-related government agencies, industry, and academia. It is also conceivable that a new, cross-sectoral and integrated ocean-related field that can serve as a driving force, such as the creation of a strong governmental body to promote the ocean, or a cross-sectoral academic society that addresses marine environmental DNA, for example, should be established. The industrial sector should also establish a forum for information exchange not only at the leadership level but also at the working level, with "ocean" as the keyword, and engage

in discussions and practices that transcend the boundaries between industries and between industry, government, academia, and money. This should promote the creation of new industries in the areas of energy, environment, aquaculture, underwater robotics, information and communication, and biotechnology.

In order to realize the Blue Economy, a center for research promotion and human resource development should be formed to enable the consolidation of international knowledge about the ocean and to promote the demonstration of advanced approaches. Based on this base, the formation of "blue tech industry clusters" (i.e., various ocean-related industrial clusters), which are being promoted in Europe and the U.S., should be promoted from the local level.

3. Specific initiatives

In order to realize the above, it is important to promote national government-led projects to form an international blue economy hub. In Japan, the "Marine Open Innovation Project" will start in 2019 in Shizuoka Prefecture, and the "Suruga Bay Smart Ocean Concept" has been proposed by the Suruga Bay Smart Ocean Diet Members Association, which aims to realize the digitalization of the ocean using Suruga Bay as a test bed. It is expected that these efforts will be promoted and presented as a model both domestically and internationally. Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan, Suruga Bay has the deepest ocean in Japan, rich and diverse biological resources, and the Port of Shimizu is a port of call for JAMSTEC's Chikyu, and is also a promising candidate as a base for the Arctic research vessel under construction. With Suruga Bay at its core, research linking the five oceans of the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic Oceans will be advanced, and it is expected to develop as a blue tech center in the future.

In addition, for the formation of a blue economy center, deregulation of the oceans, in which various governments are involved, for example through demonstration zones, should enable smooth promotion.

Furthermore, in order to accelerate such a movement, Japan should present its presence both domestically and internationally by promptly promoting the continuous holding of the Blue Economy EXPO (tentative name) as a leading initiative by Japan.

4. Toward a marine version of the Digital Garden City State initiatives

The promotion of new capitalism, especially the creation of new industries originating from local regions, is an urgent issue for the Japanese economy. The need to promote DX in Japan is also indisputable. The promotion of the Digital Garden City

State concept is an important measure that will empower local regions and benefit Japan as a whole. Meanwhile, the ocean is becoming more and more important internationally as a policy field from the perspectives of environmental conservation, economic development, and national security.

We believe that it is important for the government of Japan to exercise its leadership and take the following actions.

First, within the international framework, including the Indo-Pacific region, Japan should demonstrate its leadership by presenting a marine version of the Digital Garden City State concept to the world, especially the Global South, as a model for achieving environmental conservation and economic development at the same time, and by demonstrating its efforts in the field of high quality. Next, we will work with a variety of government and industrial sectors,

Secondly, to create an organization that will serve as a platform for national leadership in the sustainable conservation and development of the oceans, which is relevant to various administrative, industrial, and academic sectors, such as the Council for the Future of the Oceans, and to serve as a driving force behind this organization,

Furthermore, as a concrete showcase for the realization of these goals, we hope that the government will be actively involved in the Suruga Bay Smart Ocean Concept, which is being promoted as an advanced initiative.

The Round Table members gathered here in Shizuoka recommend that the national government work to realize a marine version of the Digital Garden City State Concept as soon as possible. We also declare that we will continue to cooperate and take action to develop the Suruga Bay Smart Ocean Initiative and move in the above direction.

This proposal is the result of discussions by the following roundtable members.

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Heita Kawakatsu, Governor, Shizuoka Prefecture

Takashi Namba, Mayor, Shizuoka City

Yohei Suzuki, Chairperson, Marine Culture and Research Hub Promotion Council

Guests of honor

Yoko Kamikawa, a Member of the House of Representatives,

and other members

Government Officials of Cabinet Office, MEXT, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,

Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc.