

Preamble

In 2020, there were instances of cooperation between the two countries, such as donations of masks and other supplies between Japan and China in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. At present, due to the ongoing strict restrictions on the control of COVID-19 pandemic, the exchange between Japan and China and the movement of people between Japan and China, which is the foundation of business, has been adversely affected. I hope that the movement of people between Japan and China and business activities will be normalized at an early stage.

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China has been publishing this White Paper since 2010 in order to promote further dialogue with the central government and local governments in China. This White Paper is a summary of the proposals for analysing and solving the issues faced by Japanese member companies of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China and other chambers of commerce and industry throughout China (a total of 8,560 corporate members) It is divided into 4 sections: “Current Status of the Chinese Economy and Japanese Companies”, “Common Issues and Proposals”, “Current Status of Each Industry and Proposals” and “Current State of Each Region and Proposals” and consisting of 28 chapters and 56 proposal items. What is depicted in the White Paper is nothing, but the current status of the Chinese economy seen through the eyes of Japanese companies and highlighted various issues encountered in the process of doing business in China by Japanese companies that have been engaging in business in China for a long period of time.

At the 4th meeting of the 13th National People’s Congress held in March 2021, it was indicated that reforms in priority areas were to be pushed forward, the vitality of market players to be further drawn out, high-level opening up to the international community to be implemented, and qualitative improvement to be promoted in the context of the stability of foreign trade and foreign capital. Securing “Non-Discriminatory Status”, which is the main request point of this White Paper, is the foundation for realizing above-mentioned goals and is indispensable for China to improve the quality of development. I am convinced that when the Chinese government seeks to intensify reforms, many points that are included in this White Paper will be beneficial.

In the reform and opening up of Chinese economy, the importance of foreign capital is immeasurable, and in particular, the roles played by Japanese companies are extremely important. In recent years, with the increasing uncertainty about the circumstances surrounding the world, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China will take over the achievement of its predecessors, further strengthening the economic corporation relationship between Japan and China, and will continue to actively propose to the China’s central government and local governments to further improve the business environment in China.

This White Paper is made up with precious contributions that member companies of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China provided us while engaging in their own work. In particular, regarding this 2021 White Paper, they

produced manuscripts in a very difficult situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon compiling this White Paper, the research committee office of the Chamber (Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Beijing Office) played the central role. In addition, JETRO offices in Shanghai, Dalian, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Wuhan and Chengdu offered great supports in cooperation with other chambers of commerce and industry in various places in China. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for all those who have made a great contribution.

I sincerely hope that through this White Paper, it shall facilitate dialogues between Japan and China and strengthen the bond of the two countries, thus leading to further prosperity together.

Daisuke Mikogami

Chairman of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China