

Comments on the Result of the General Election for the Members of the House of Representatives

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The general election yesterday was very important and will have a great bearing on the future of Japan. Instead of the domination by the incumbent Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) took a majority of seats in the House of Representatives, thus becoming the ruling party of Japan once again. We consider that this reflects people's expectations for a breakthrough in regenerating the nation.

While continuing efforts to recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan is now faced with many challenges including rebuilding the economy, reforming the taxation and social security systems, and tackling energy and diplomatic/security issues.

Under the new ruling party's leadership, we expect the government to seek progress in implementing important policies with a firm determination to work for the true interests of the nation and the people of Japan.

The national energy policy is particularly important because of its impacts on people's welfare and economic activity, assuming that the government follows a consistent, long-term approach. Considering the limited availability of indigenous energy resources, it is crucial for Japan to simultaneously attain the three Es of energy security, environmental conservation and economy, based on a major premise of securing diverse energy options including nuclear power as well as ensuring safety.

From this viewpoint, the Innovative Strategy for Energy and the Environment, which proposes discontinuing nuclear power by 2030, involves too many problems. We believe it should be reviewed under the new administration and modified to support a more realistic energy policy.