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Financial Services Agency Newsletter

Access FSA



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Inaugural Interview with Mr. Nishino, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office



NISHINO Daisuke

Date of birth	September 22, 1978
Birthplace	Kumamoto Prefecture
Constituency	2nd District, Kumamoto Prefecture
Hobbies	None (Relaxed by playing with my niece)

*Brief personal history: [Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/prime/minister/nishino/)

I asked Mr. Daisuke NISHINO, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, who was inaugurated on November 13 this year following the inauguration of the Second Ishiba Cabinet, about his enthusiasm and daily activities.

- First of all, please tell us about your enthusiasm for your appointment as the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office.

While I have been working as a Diet member in the capacity of a legislative body, since the receipt of my official appointment on November 13 as the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, I have just gained a new sense as a member of the government to firmly take responsibility for working on administration and policy.

In addition, I am in charge of finance, economic and fiscal policy, the New Form of Capitalism and other fields related to the economy, and accordingly, I realize that it is a very rewarding job. Since the Japanese economy has been suffering from deflation for 30 years, I think that we are now out of that period, and at a crossroads as to whether or not we can get back on track for growth. At this very important time to get it firmly on track and make it a reality, I am very grateful to be able to work in the economic field, including finance.

It has been about two months since I took up my post, and all employees of the Financial Services Agency and the Cabinet Office are very supportive, which is very reassuring. To create a new financial

administration together with such employees, I would like to do my best.

- Please let me know if you have any policies in financial administration you are particularly interested in.

- All fields of finance have high potential and challenging policies -

Although I used to work at the Ministry of Finance, I once again feel that public finance and finance are completely different. I am studying and working on the finance fields I have been involved in only a little until now with the feeling of an amateur. Since my appointment as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, I have exchanged opinions with and received lectures from various FSA employees. I realize that all finance fields have really high potential. For example, there are regulatory policies that have been consistent over past years, and firm, important policies aimed for by the government, including the Policy Plan for Promoting Japan as a Leading Asset Management Center, and further, policies related to fields using new technology such as Fintech or cryptocurrency. Finance is a word that covers a wide range of fields, all of which are rewarding work, I think.

- I would like to do my best to help the public deepen their understanding of new fields -

Especially with respect to new fields, including Fintech, the technology itself is difficult and new, which makes people prepare, and things get even more complicated when it comes to law. It may be something that the general public tends to shy away from. However, it is not something you cannot understand when you listen to it. I therefore think we politicians should serve as bridges between the administration and the public to explain it in a way that is easier to understand and allow people to deepen their understanding.

Such new finance fields are important also for promoting Japan as a Leading Asset Management Center as they are in a growing industry, and I would particularly like to put a lot of effort into them.

- What made you decide to become a Diet member?

- Ever since I was young, I have admired the magnitude of the influence and the greatness of the presence of political leaders -

There was no one big event that caused me to become a Diet member, but throughout my life, I began to aim to become a politician, a Diet member.

When I was little, I had a vague longing for the patriots at the end of the Edo period, including Ryoma Sakamoto, Takamori Saigo, and Toshimichi Okubo. Japan is what it is today because of them. When I thought about the magnitude of the influence of political leaders, and that there would be no future for this State if those leaders were not tough, I began to admire the greatness and presence of politicians. However, I was not in an environment where there were politicians close to me, and I could not imagine myself running for election accordingly. I wanted to do work that could benefit the State and society as a whole even not as a politician, and I decided to join the Ministry of Finance.

At the Ministry of Finance, I really had a variety of experiences, and while doing so, I saw with my own eyes and learned what kind of challenges and

serious problems this State was currently facing. Working as a government official was also very important and rewarding, but I began to think of working in a job where I could hold discussions with a little more influence and decide on the direction of the State. I was also inspired by seeing my colleagues at the Ministry of Finance taking on new challenges in politics, and furthermore, I wanted to contribute to my hometown, Kumamoto. These various thoughts came together and I decided to become a politician.

Diving to the world of politics, I anyway realized how difficult it was to get a vote in an election. If I had known in advance how difficult it would be, I might not have been able to make the decision. Although this could be the indiscretion of youth, I started my career as a politician with the determination that I had no choice but to move forward since I made the decision to dive into this world.



(Photo: Interview)

- Please let me know if there is any impressive policy you have worked on or are working on.

- Policy issue Circular Economy I was involved in as the Secretary-General of the LDP's Project Team -

I am currently in my second term, which is not long in a political career, and would like to keep learning and achieve results in various fields. Even during such a short period of time, there is a new policy issue I am placing particular emphasis on, called Circular Economy.

The era when resources were dug up as if they were limitless, and an infinite number of products were made and discarded continued for a long time in the past, and recently, we entered the era of 3Rs (Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle). Circular Economy goes one step further. It is economic activity to recycle resources as close to 100% as possible aiming for a sustainable society and economic growth, as an initiative that has recently attracted attention. Although it may be a term you are not yet familiar with, I think “Circular Economy” will be known by everyone probably in five years, or at the latest in 10 years from now. In terms of financial administration, sustainable finance may be related.

The opportunity for me to work on this issue came when I was asked by the former Minister of the Environment, Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi if I would like to work together on this policy. As the Secretary-General of the Circular Economy Project Team of the LDP’s Economy, Trade and Industry Division, I summarized policy recommendations while discussing with companies working on Circular Economy, including their officers. Circular Economy is a policy that is finally starting to be recognized a little among Diet members, still poorly recognized from a societal perspective, and currently at the dawn, I think. In these circumstances, being involved in a policy created from scratch was very enlightening to me. I think this will become a very important issue in the future, and I will continue to work on it.

☞ Reference: Website of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

[Growth-Oriented, Resource-Autonomous Circular Economy](#)

- Please tell me if you have an effective way of communicating your daily activities.

- There is no mallet of luck that will increase the number of followers, and steady, down-to-earth activities are most important -

I think this is something that many politicians feel as an issue. I myself share information on SNS, but I feel that I do not yet have enough ability to convey messages. However, in this regard, there is

no mallet of luck that will suddenly increase the number of followers to 10,000 or 20,000. Interaction with many people through continuous down-to-earth activities, either local activities or accumulated policy activities in central politics, will lead to an increase in the number of followers, as well as the ability to convey messages.



(Photo: Interview)

- Please tell me if you have a way of spending a holiday or refreshing yourself.

- My soul is healed when I play with my niece -

To be honest, I do not have any hobbies to speak of, but I feel relaxed or refreshed when communicating with various people while having a drinking. Although that kind of time may no longer exist, I would be happy if I could communicate with local supporters, government employees or people in the industry while drinking within the rules.

I hardly get any days off, but in my occasional free time, I play with my eight-year-old niece and feel refreshed. She is very cute, and she relaxes me. However, she has grown up recently and seems to think that I am someone who will listen to whatever she has to say. She started to ask me to buy various goods. I cannot help but buying them, and my sister gets mad at me every time (laugh). I think there are quite a few people in the world who dote on their nieces and nephews like I do. Marketing that targets those people in some way is likely to be a way to revitalize the economy.

(Interviewer: Koichi HONDA, Director of the Public Relations Office)

Japan Exchange Group Ceremony on the First Trading Day of the Year - Minister of State for Financial Services, Mr. Kato Attended -

On January 6 this year, the Minister of State for Financial Services, Mr. Kato attended the Japan Exchange Group Ceremony on the First Trading Day of 2025 held at the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Ahead of the first trading of the year, Minister Mr. Kato gave an address as follows: “Japan's economy is showing signs of recovery, and the government will continue its initiatives to ensure that we overcome deflation by seizing this opportunity and shift towards a growth-oriented economy driven by wage increases and investment. The Financial

Services Agency will also ensure the flow from savings into investment to contribute to this shift towards the growth-oriented economy from a financial perspective and continue to promote the Policy Plan for Promoting Japan as a Leading Asset Management Center to support people's asset formation.

After giving the address, Minister Mr. Kato rang the bell and prayed for the prosperity of the market this year together with those in attendance.



Photo: Minister of State for Financial Services Mr. Kato giving the address



Photo: Minister of State for Financial Services Mr. Kato ringing the bell



Photo: Venue of the ceremony on the first trading day of 2025

🔔 Reference 🔔

At the ceremony on the first trading day of the year, the bell is rung five times in light of the bountiful harvest of five grains. This year, Minister of State for Financial Services Mr. Kato rang the bell three times, and then Mr. Hiroshi Nakaso, Chairman of the Organization of Global Financial City Tokyo, and Mr. Satoshi Ando, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japan Financial Literacy and Education Corporation (J-FLEC) each rang the bell once.

Summary of the “Report of the Working Group on Regulatory Systems Especially for Non-Life Insurance Business” under the Financial System Council

HASHIMOTO Atsushi, Assistant Director of the Division
SAKURAI Aya, Section Chief, Insurance System Planning Office,
Planning and Management Division, Policy and Markets Bureau

1. Introduction

The Financial Services Agency has held meetings at the “Expert Panel on Structural Issues and Competition in the Non-Life Insurance Sector” since March 2024 in response to the fraudulent insurance claim case and insurance premium adjustment case having occurred in the non-life insurance market. The panel aims to discuss systems and supervisory measures to prevent the recurrence of both cases. After publishing the report of the Panel in June 2024, the FSA established the “Working Group on the Regulatory System Especially for Non-Life Insurance Business” under the Financial System Council to consider the points at issue focusing on those requiring law amendments, and compiled a report^{*1} thereon in December 2024.

In this article, we will introduce a summary of the report.

2. Thorough Customer-Oriented Business Conduct

(1) Strengthening of internal management and compliance system for large-sized shared agents

Under the current system, to improve the ability of insurance agents, insurance companies are required to appropriately educate, manage, and insurance agents, and insurance agents by themselves are also required to maintain systems related to the insurance solicitation business.

However, the fraudulent insurance claim case revealed that insurance companies are in a situation where problems are likely to occur for reasons such that they tend to give consideration to large-sized shared agents for business purposes. Therefore, it was pointed out that for large-sized shared agents,

it is appropriate to strengthen their obligation to develop systems required under laws and regulations.

Specifically, it was deemed appropriate to identify shared insurance agents whose scale is especially large, and then require that those insurance agents strengthen their internal management and compliance systems such as the appointment of persons responsible for compliance with laws and regulations and development of a complaint processing system. It was also deemed appropriate to require that these insurance agents that concurrently engage in any business related to insurance proceeds such as automobile repair business use means such as developing systems to prevent customer interests or trust from being harmed owing to unfair incentives to claim fraudulent repairs or other costs by the agents.

(2) Ensuring the effectiveness of guidance, etc. provided by insurance companies

In the fraudulent insurance claim case, the insurance companies did not appropriately educate, manage, and guide the insurance agents, which should have been done by the insurance companies. Based on these circumstances, it was also deemed appropriate to require that insurance companies that entrust the business of insurance solicitation take measures such as separating the insurance proceeds and other payments management sections and the sales sections, and appointing a manager who verifies compliance with laws and regulations and other conditions of entrusted insurance agents so that appropriate education, management, guidance over insurance agents are fully functional.

^{*1} Publication of the “Report of the Working Group on Regulatory System Especially for Non-Life Insurance Business” under the Financial System Council (published on December 25, 2024)

<https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/newsletter/weekly2025/618.html#e10>

(3) Ensuring appropriate sales by recommendation and comparative explanation at shared agents

When shared agents engage in sales by recommendation and comparative explanation, if the shared agents recommend any particular insurance company’s product putting priority only on their own benefit such as provision of convenience by the insurance company regardless

of the intention of a customer, it may hinder the customer from making an appropriate product selection. This way of soliciting cannot be considered appropriate action. Therefore, to ensure appropriate sales by recommendation and comparative explanation, it was decided to require shared agents to narrow down and recommend insurance products according to the customer’s intention.

**Summary of the “Report of the Working Group on Regulatory System Especially for Non-Life Insurance Business”
Related to the Thorough Customer-Oriented Business Conduct**

Strengthening of internal management and compliance systems of large-sized shared agents

- Insurance agencies with multiple affiliated insurance companies (the “Shared Agents”) whose scale is especially large (the “Specified Large-Sized Shared Insurance Agents”) should strengthen their internal management and compliance systems (such as the appointment of persons responsible for compliance with laws and regulations and development of a complaint processing system).
- As part of the above management systems, the Specified Large-Sized Shared Insurance Agents that concurrently engage in business in which repair and other costs are paid from insurance proceeds (the “Business Related to Insurance Proceeds”) should (i) identify transactions that may harm customer interests or trust owing to unfair incentives by the agents, and then (ii) formulate and make public the policy to appropriately manage those transactions, and also to (iii) develop systems to prevent customer interests or trust from being harmed owing to the unfair incentives.
- The FSA will ensure the effectiveness of system development by the Specified Large-Sized Shared Insurance Agents through monitoring such as regular hearings.
- For insurance agents other than the Specified Large-Sized Shared Insurance Agents, items to be included in business reports will be expanded, and the FSA will flexibly monitor the agents on a risk basis.

Ensuring the effectiveness of guidance, etc. provided by insurance companies

- Insurance companies should take the measures below.
 - To appropriately separate the insurance proceeds and other payments management sections and the sales sections. With respect to all entrusted insurance agents that concurrently engage in the Business Related to Insurance Proceeds, to identify transactions that may harm customer interests or trust owing to unfair incentives by the agents and formulate and make public the policy to appropriately manage those transactions.
 - To appoint a manager who verifies compliance with laws and regulations and other conditions of the Specified Large-Sized Shared Insurance Agents, etc.
 - To organize ideas about exercising the right to obtain reimbursement and grasp and manage the status of exercise of the right to obtain reimbursement against insurance agents.

Ensuring appropriate sales by recommendation and comparative explanation at the Shared Agents

- The Shared Agents are required to carefully and clearly understand items on which a customer puts a focus, and then narrow down and recommend insurance products according to the customer’s intention.

Considering the ideal form of self-regulation in the non-life insurance field

- After observing the effects of future events such as system and supervisory actions and industry initiatives, the necessity of self-regulation will be reconsidered.

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3. Realization of a Fair Competitive Environment

(1) Promotion of the use of insurance brokers

While the insurance broker system was established in 1995 for the purpose of diversifying insurance solicitation channels, it is difficult to say that the system is being fully utilized at present. Therefore, towards the promotion of the use of insurance brokers, it was deemed appropriate to review and allow them to receive fees from customers, whereas they would only receive commissions from insurance companies under the current system, as well as to reduce the minimum deposit amount required for insurance brokers and to allow insurance brokers to collaborate with insurance agents.

(2) Prohibition of excessive provision of convenience to policyholders by insurance companies

In terms of current insurance industry practices, not only is there the act of offering various services and goods to policyholders or the like, there is also provision of convenience such as the use of the services or the purchase of the goods of, or the provision of services (including, but not limited to secondment) by a group company of the policyholder, and it is revealed that these acts may hinder the fairness of transactions and fair competition in the insurance market. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to review the provisions concerning “offering a special advantage” of the Insurance Business Act so that provision of convenience that goes against such purport is prohibited.

(3) Restructuring regulation related to inhouse agents

With respect to inhouse agents that are insurance agents having close personal or capital relationships with companies running any business other than insurance business, issues including no efforts having been made to improve their practical skills, and that fees paid to them by non-life insurance companies may serve as practical discounts on insurance premiums have been pointed out.

Therefore, with respect to the regulated ratio of specific contracts^{*2}, it was deemed appropriate, by considering the below two perspectives, to abolish the transitional measures^{*3} after setting aside a preparation period of about three years. The one is preventing practical discounts on insurance premiums as the original purpose of the same regulation, and the other is promoting the more independence of insurance agencies. It was also deemed appropriate to extend the scope of specified persons eligible for policyholders or the like in the same regulation to the scope of consolidation.

On the other hand, it is deemed appropriate to establish a framework for exemptions from the same regulation applicable to inhouse agents that are considered to have no problem in light of the above two perspectives.

(4) Improvement of the deficit structure of fire insurance

While deficits in fire insurance become the norm in non-life insurance companies, sales pressure has been increasing within those companies, which may result in difficulty in presenting appropriate insurance premiums. It is believed that such situation has been the background to this insurance premium adjustment case.

Therefore, it was deemed appropriate that the FSA would enhance its way of monitoring regarding the corporate product development of non-life insurance companies, and the General Insurance Rating Organization of Japan would further consider the method of reflecting the impact of future climate changes to advisory pure risk premium rates for fire insurance. In addition, it was deemed appropriate to expand insurance types subject to calculation of advisory pure risk premium rates and preparation of standard terms and conditions, and thereby promote product development and new entry by small and

medium-sized non-life insurance companies.

4. Conclusion

In addition to the aforementioned, the report made a wide range of recommendations with respect to various issues in the insurance market. Based on the recommendations in this report, the FSA will continue to maintain necessary systems in cooperation with related parties.

^{*2} It is the regulation that the ratio of insurance contracts whose policy holders are their parent companies or the like is limited to a certain range, for the purposes of promoting the independence of insurance and preventing practically discounts on insurance premiums.

^{*3} Non-life insurance agencies that have already existed at the time of introduction of the same regulation are allowed to keep the same ratio low (those subject to calculation of the same ratio are limited to automobile, fire, and accident insurance contracts).

Summary of the “Report of the Working Group on Regulatory System Especially for Non-Life Insurance Business” Related to the Realization of a Fair Competitive Environment Promotion of the use of insurance brokers

Promotion of the use of insurance brokers

- Insurance brokers will be allowed to receive fees from customers as well (for the time being, limited to corporate insurance).
- The minimum deposit amount required for insurance brokers will be reduced (from 20 million yen to 10 million yen).
- Insurance brokers will be allowed to collaborate with insurance agencies, provided that measures are in place to prevent customer misunderstandings.
- When a company obtains approval from the FSA through an individual review to conclude an insurance contract with a foreign insurer, an insurance broker will be allowed to act as an intermediary in concluding the contract.
- If an insurance broker is involved in deplorable events, they will be required to report it to the FSA.

Prohibition of excessive provision of convenience to policyholders by insurance companies

- To the acts prohibited as “offering a special advantage”, excessive provision of convenience (such as purchase of goods or provision of services) is newly added.
- To the recipients of a special advantage, group companies of a policyholder or the like are added.

Restructuring regulation related to in-house agents

- After setting aside a preparation period of about three years for the regulated ratio of specific contracts (Note 1), transitional measures (Note 2) will be abolished, and the scope of “specified persons” will be extended to the scope of consolidation.
 - (Note 1) It is the regulation that the ratio of insurance contracts whose policyholders are their parent companies or the like is limited to a certain range, for the purposes of promoting the independence of insurance agencies and preventing practical discounts on insurance premiums.
 - (Note 2) Non-life insurance agencies that have already existed at the time of introduction of the same regulation are allowed to keep the same ratio low (those subject to calculation of the same ratio are limited to automobile, fire, and accident insurance contracts).
- On the other hand, inhouse agents that meet certain requirements (“development of a certain level of control environment” and “proper commissions”) are excluded from the application of the above regulation. The FSA will proceed with making specific requirements.
- It is to be clarified that payment of a commission by an insurance company to an in-house agent in an amount exceeding the amount commensurate with services provided by the in-house agent is prohibited as “offering a special advantage” to a company (such as a policyholder).

Improvement of the deficit structure of fire insurance

- The FSA will enhance its monitoring of management systems regarding the corporate product development about of non-life insurance companies.
- General Insurance Rating Organization of Japan will further consider the method of reflecting the impact of future climate changes to advisory pure risk premium rates for fire insurance.
- Insurance types subject to calculation of advisory pure risk premium rates and preparation of standard terms and conditions are expanded. The data bank function of General Insurance Rating Organization of Japan will be strengthened.

NISA Day: February 13

Holding of Commemorative Event



After approximately one year having passed since the start of the new NISA system* in January 2024, we appreciate that many people have become aware of this system and it has become more familiar.

The Financial Services Agency will hold a commemorative event on **February 13** as **NISA Day** so that even more people are aware of the NISA system.

In the event, you can have fun learning about the NISA system with various guests. The event will deepen your knowledge about asset building,

including the utilization of the NISA system, and give you an opportunity to think about household budget management and life planning.

Owing to popular demand, the venue has reached its capacity and registration has now closed.

Anyone can view the event via streaming without applying in advance.

- Please do not hesitate to join! -

Date and time

Starts at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025

How to join

Livestreaming (YouTube)

*The venue has reached its capacity and registration has now closed. (Even after the closing, registration may resume without prior notice if a seat becomes available, so please check the official website from time to time.)

Others

- Free event
- No application is required to join the event online!



For details, please visit the official website.

<https://www.nisa-kissa.jp/>



* Details of the NISA system: <https://www.fsa.go.jp/policy/nisa2/know/>

JFSA's Major Activities in December (December 1 to December 31, 2024)

- [Results of the Cybersecurity Self-Assessment for Financial Institutions \(FY2023\)\(December 24\)](#)
- [Publication of "FSA Strategic Priorities: July 2024 - June 2025"\(December 23\)](#)
- [Updated list of issuers of gift certificates in repayment procedures based on the 'Payment Services Act' \(December 18\)](#)
- [Research report on "The Evolution of Tokenization in the Financial Sector and the Feasibility of the use of Blockchain Technology for RegTech/SupTech"\(December 19\)](#)
- [Publication of the "Monitoring Report for Improving Internal Audits of Financial Institutions \(2024\)"\(December 19\)](#)
- [The Eighth Japan-Korea Financial Shuttle Meeting \(December 16\)](#)
- [Overview of financial results of major insurance companies as of September 30, 2024\(December 13\)](#)
- [Overview of major banks' financial results as of September 30, 2024\(December 11\)](#)
- [Overview of the Japanese regional banks' financial results for six months ended September 30, 2024\(December 10\)](#)
- [Publication of "FSA Analytical Notes \(2024.7\) vol.1: I. Analysis of Trends of Real Estate Loans by Regional Banks and Study on Credit Ratings using Machine Learning, II. Analysis of Corporate Transaction Network, and III. Analysis of Corporate Bankruptcies arising from Human Resource Shortages amid the Changing Working Environment"\(December 2\)](#)
- [The Dialogue between the Financial Services Agency \(FSA\) and the Center for Financial Industry Information Systems \(FISC\)\(December 2\)](#)



Introduction of Discussion Papers in Financial Research Center



The Financial Research Center of the Financial Services Agency publishes discussion papers summarizing research results by the Center's research fellows. This article presents some of these writings.

- Selected Discussion Papers recently published -

◆ [The Significance of “Enterprise Value Mortgage Lien” and Its Standing in the Bankruptcy Act](#)

YASUNAGA Yuji, Associate Research Fellow, Financial Research Center, Financial Services Agency
(Associate Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kobe University)
TOMIKAWA Ryo, Associate Research Fellow, Financial Research Center, Financial Services Agency
(Partner, CHUO SOGO Legal Professional Corporation)

◆ [A Study on the Current State of Impact Measurement and Management \(IMM\) and Future Directions from the Perspective of Management Accounting](#)

HAYASHI Toshikazu, Special Research Fellow, Financial Research Center, Financial Services Agency
(Head of ESG, Nippon Life Global Investors Europe Plc)
KOZAKI Aiko, Special Research Fellow, Financial Research Center, Financial Services Agency
(Director of Investment Department, Japan Network for Public Interest Activities (JANPIA))

◆ [Progress in the Evaluation Methodologies of Large-scale Language Models \(LLM\) in the Financial Sector and Initiatives toward Improving LLM through Retrieval Augmented Generation](#)

KIM Kangsoo, Special Research Fellow, Financial Research Center, Financial Services Agency
(Project academic specialist, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo)
MURATA Ken, Special Research Fellow, Financial Research Center, Financial Services Agency
(Project academic specialist, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo)

*The above research fellows have already resigned upon expiration of their term of office, as of the end of December 2024.

👉 For other discussion papers, please visit the following websites:
<https://www.fsa.go.jp/frtc/english/seika/discussion2024.html>

JFSA's official English X (formerly Twitter) account
https://x.com/JFSA_en



We are promoting
information dissemination
using X (formerly Twitter) !

Editorial Postscript

This month, we published an inaugural interview with Parliamentary Vice-Minister Mr. Nishino. Since he used to work at the Ministry of Finance as a public employee before aspiring to be a politician, and also we are close in age, I felt like I was listening to a senior colleague close to me during the interview. In addition, on the night of the interview, a New Year's party with several employees of the Office of the Parliamentary Vice-Minister and the Planning and Management Division, Commissioner's Secretariat was planned, and after the interview, we went straight to the drinking party where we had a lot more fun talking about various things. I fully realized again that those entering politics were prepared with a great deal of determination.

I am changing the subject, but an ordinary session of the Diet has commenced since Friday, January 24. During the 150-day term, each ministry and agency in Kasumigaseki will carry out careful business operations while sometimes bearing a heavy burden such as submitting bills to the Diet or holding deliberations in the Diet. I feel like this year has begun at last, and I would like to operate the Planning and Management Division and the Public Relations Office, Commissioner's Secretariat while taking care to ensure that everyone stays healthy and completes this tough race safely.

I will strive to ensure that the various results achieved during these efforts are reflected in this Access FSA. I appreciate your continued support this year.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Mr. Nishino
and employees of the Public Relations Office



Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Mr. Nishino
and employees of his office,
and employees of the Planning and
Management Division, Strategy
Development and Management Bureau



HONDA Koichi, Director of the Public Relations Office, FSA
Edited and issued by the Public Relations Office, FSA