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 Shim bun
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)
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:
*Masakazu 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
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