

Details of Inviting Proposals Pertaining to National Strategic Special Zones

Office for the Promotion of Regional Revitalization, Cabinet Office

1. Purport

Based on Article 5, paragraph 7 of the National Strategic Special Zone Act (Act No. 107 of 2013) and the sixth basic policy of the National Strategic Special Zone (Cabinet Decision, February 25, 2014), we will invite proposals related to new measures to be taken by the government for enhancing the international competitiveness of the industries in National Strategic Special Zone and promoting the formation of bases for international economic activities (including those contributing to regional revitalization). We will accept proposals for regulatory reforms not only limited to the special zones but also across Japan.

Furthermore, the result of this collection of proposals will be used as a reference for the Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised on 30 June 2015) shown below and the second installment of the Regional Vitalization Special Zones (the third round of designations of National Strategic Special Zones) to be carried out before the end of the year based on the Prime Minister's remarks at the Council on Special Zones and items pointed out by expert members of the Diet. We would be grateful for active proposals from local governments which would like to utilize the regulatory reforms added by the revised Special Zone Act which came into force on 1 September and regulatory reforms stated in the above-mentioned Japan Revitalization Strategy.

Additionally, the proposals may be regarded and processed as proposals for the 28th Structural Reform Special Zones related to Article 3, paragraph 4 of the Structural Reform Special Zone Act (Act No. 189 of 2002) and the basic policy 2. (2) of the Structural Reform Special Zone (Cabinet Decision, January 24, 2003) based on the regulation stated in the Article 38, paragraph 1 of the above Act.

<Reference>

- Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised on 30 June 2015) (Extract)

II. Key Measures in the Revised Strategy

5. Further Strengthening Locational Competitiveness

5-1. Realizing National Strategic Special Zones / [Omission]

(3) Specific new measures to be taken

a) Speedy embodiment or implementation of projects, addition of designated zones, etc.

[Omission]

In order to further revitalize the economy across our country by promoting activities of the local governments which are enthusiastic about regional revitalization through regulatory reforms and by encouraging competition between designated special zones, [omission] the designation of the second installment of the Regional Vitalization Special Zones (the third round of designations of National Strategic Special Zones) will be realized as soon as possible by the end of this year.

- The Prime Minister's Statement at the 13th meeting of the Council on National Strategic Special Zones (19 March 2015) (Extract)
"Furthermore, we will solicit bold regulatory reform proposals, including verification of near future technologies, and launch the second installment of Regional Vitalization Special Zones as quickly as possible before the end of the year."

- The Prime Minister's Statement at the 15th meeting of the Council on National Strategic Special Zones (9 September 2015) (Extract)
"Regulatory reform contributes to regional vitalization. I hope to complete the third round of designations of National Strategic Special Zones within this year. I sincerely look forward to the emergence of local governments filled with passion for reform that are similar to Yabu City and Semboku City, which achieved designation after proposing inimitable, truly unique reforms."

- Materials submitted by expert members of the Diet for the 15th meeting of the Council on National Strategic Special Zones (9 September 2015) (Extract)
 - Zones for the third designation should be selected without delay. In the process, we will be selecting the local governments who actively want to utilize the additional items incorporated in the revised law and the growth strategy revised in June as well as the reforms of the so-called "rock-solid" regulations which are to be reviewed continuously.
 - In order to execute this securely, one idea is to ask the local governments to be designated to resubmit their proposals.

2. Proposers

From the viewpoint of gathering wisdom from a wide variety of fields, we will invite proposals from private business operators and local governments who will be carrying out the projects. We will accept not only independent proposals but also joint proposals made by several organizations as well as those from overseas.

3. Period of Invitation

We will invite proposals from Tuesday, 6 October until 17:00 on Friday, 30 October, 2015.

Proposals will be appropriately screened upon receipt before being considered for hearings by the Working Group (WG) of the National Strategic Special Zones.

4. Outline of Requirements for Acceptable Proposals

We will accept proposals which meet all of the following requirements.

1. Proposals on specific projects which contribute to the enhancement of the international competitiveness of the industries or the promotion of the formation of bases for international economic activities (including those contributing to regional revitalization).
2. Specific proposals with regards to regulatory/system reforms required to enable the execution of the projects suggested in the above (1) when it is impossible or difficult under the current regulations/systems. (We do not accept proposals which simply request support for funding including taxation systems.)

*Please note that proposals made this time will not be necessarily connected directly to

the designation of the new National Strategic Special Zone.

5. Proposal Entry Method

Please follow the entry method shown in the format attached.

6. Points to Consider in Filling out the Format

Please take note of the following points in completing the proposal format.

1. For the column “Location of Project” in (4) of the format, please put the name of the prefecture or the city to identify the location when the proposal requests regulatory reforms in a certain region. When the proposal relates to regulatory reforms across Japan or does not specify a region, there is no need to fill out this part.
2. For columns (7), (8) and (9) of the format, please put the description for each regulation from the viewpoint of the following 3 and 4.
3. For column (7) “Content of regulations which make it impossible or difficult to carry out the project mentioned in (5)” in the format, please describe specifically how the current regulations obstruct the execution of the project mentioned in (5) after identifying in (8) the grounds of laws and ordinances of the applicable regulations as much as possible.
4. For column (9) “Content of new measures proposed for reforms of the regulations/systems mentioned in (7) and (8)” in the format, please describe not only the abolition of the regulations mentioned in (8) but also specific changes to be made in the content of the regulations or proposals of new regulations/systems as specific as possible.
5. When you would like your proposals to be considered and processed only for the National Strategic Special Zone, please state so in column (12) “Special Notes” in the format.

7. Submission Method of Proposals

Please submit your proposal by one of the following methods.

1. Via e-mail

Please send all the files including the proposal and other materials attached to the e-mail.

<Notes>

(1) Please put “Proposal Submission *and the name of the proposer*” as the subject of the e-mail. (e.g. Proposal Submission XX Company)

In the case of a joint proposal made by several organizations, please put the name of the person or the organization shown as the contact on the format as the “Name of Proposer.”

(2) For the electronic file name of the proposal, please put “the name of the proposer and the name of the proposal.” (e.g. XX Company XX Project)

Please follow the above (1) for the “Name of Proposer.”

(3) With regards to reference materials, please send us the electronic files together with the proposal. The recipient’s email address is shown in **8. Contact**.

We will not notify you of the arrival of your proposal but we would be grateful if you could contact the Office for the Promotion of Regional Revitalization (Tel: 03-5510-2463 / 2466) for confirmation.

2. Delivery by post or by hand

Please submit two copies of your proposal and the whole electronic media. In the case of delivery through posting, please put “Proposal enclosed” in red on the envelope. The recipient's address is shown in **8. Contact**.

8. Contact

Cabinet Office

Office for the Promotion of Regional Revitalization

In charge of Proposals for the National Strategic Special Zone

<Address> Nagata-cho Godo Chosha 6F

1-11-39 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0014, Japan

<Tel> 03-5510-2463 / 2466

<Email> i.kokkatoc@sign.cao.go.jp

*The above address does not show the at-sign for security reasons.

9. Points to Consider in Submitting the Proposal

1. Submissions just before the closing date may cause a delay in checking the content of the proposals. We would appreciate your early submission.
2. Please note that we will not return the materials and documents you submit.

10. Handling of Proposals

1. The proposals received will be screened by the Working Group (WG) of the National Strategic Special Zones and hearings will be conducted by the WG members as necessary for those selected. We will later contact the proposers who have been selected for hearing sessions.

After that, discussions will be held between WG members and relevant ministries and agencies through hearings. The response policy to the proposal will finally be decided through study and deliberation by the Council on National Strategic Special Zones.

2. Proposals to be handled as those related to Structural Reform Special Zone in accordance with Article 38, paragraph 1 of the National Strategic Special Zone Act will be subject to discussions between the Office for the Promotion of Regional Revitalization and relevant ministries and agencies. Proposals for which certain conclusions are made will receive response policies to be decided by the Office for the Promotion of Structural Reform Special Zones.

In the process of discussions with relevant ministries and agencies, we will provide opportunities for proposers to respond with opinions to the answers from those relevant ministries and agencies.

11. Reference

For National Strategic Special Zones and Structural Reform Special Zones, please see the website below.

<http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tiiki/>