Changes in the circumstances surrounding food safety administration

Recently there has been a spate of incidents in Japan and overseas which have threatened food safety. There have been outbreaks of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), and there has been a problem of pesticide residues on imported vegetables. In the wake of these incidents, in recent years, many people have had their confidence and sense of security in the safety of food undermined.

Advances in the widening and globalization of food distribution, the emergence of new hazards, and the development of new technologies, such as genetic modification, have caused considerable changes to the circumstances surrounding the dietary habits of the people of Japan.

In order to respond adequately to these changes in circumstances, on July 1, 2003, the Food Safety Basic Law came into force. The purpose of this Law is to comprehensively promote policies to ensure food safety by establishing basic principles, by clarifying the responsibilities of the state, local governments, and food-related business operators and the roles of consumers, and by establishing basic directions, with respect to ensuring food safety. The basic principles include the recognition that protecting the health of Japanese citizens is a top priority, and the basic directions include the promotion of risk assessment (assessment of the effect of food on health), risk management (formulation of policies based on the risk assessment), and risk communication (the mutual exchange of opinions and information among persons or parties concerned).

In conjunction with the enforcement of the Food Safety Basic Law, on the same date, the Food Safety Commission was established under the Cabinet Office, independent from such risk management organizations as the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It was established for the purpose of implementing risk assessments in a neutral and fair manner on the basis of scientific knowledge.

Changes in the circumstances surrounding dietary habits in Japan

- Advances in the widening and globalization of food distribution
- The emergence of new hazards including Escherichia coli O-157:H7, prions.
- The development of new technologies, and improvements in analytical techniques

Frequent incidents threatening food safety

- Outbreaks of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
- Problems of pesticide residues on imported vegetables
- The use of unregistered pesticides within Japan

International trends in food safety

- Ensure safety at each stage from production to table (Food chain approach)
- Popularization of the concept that there are no “absolutes” in food safety, that assessment should be implemented on the assumption that risks do exist, and that the risks should be adequately controlled.
  → Introduction of risk analysis techniques
  Establishment of risk assessment organizations overseas
    - French Food Safety Agency (Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments: AFSSA), 1999
    - European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), 2002
    - Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung: BfR), 2002
The Food Safety Basic Law was enacted for the purpose of comprehensively promoting policies to ensure food safety, by establishing basic principles, by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the persons concerned, and by establishing basic directions for policy formulation with respect to ensuring food safety. (Law No. 48, May 23, 2003)

Main features of the Food Safety Basic Law

1. Basic Principles (Articles 3-5)
   (1) Necessary measures shall be taken on the basis of the basic recognition that protecting the health of Japanese citizens is the top priority.
   (2) Safety shall be ensured at each stage of the food supply process.
   (3) Necessary measures shall be taken on the basis of scientific knowledge and in consideration of international trends and the opinions of Japanese citizens.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Persons Concerned (Articles 6-9)
   - Responsibilities of the state and local governments
     • To formulate and implement policies related to ensuring food safety on the basis of an appropriate sharing of roles.
   - Responsibilities of food-related business operators
     • To recognize that they have a primary responsibility for ensuring food safety, and to appropriately take necessary measures.
     • To make efforts to provide accurate and appropriate information.
     • To cooperate in policies implemented by the control and local governments.
   - Roles of consumers
     • To endeavor to improve their knowledge and understanding, and to express opinions on the policies.

3. Basic Direction for Policy Formulation (Articles 11-21)
   - (Adoption of risk analysis techniques) (Articles 11-13)
     □ Implementation of risk assessment (assessment of the effect of food on health)
     □ Formulation of policies based on the results of the risk assessment
     □ Promotion of risk communication
   - (Articles 14-20)
     □ Response to emergency situations
     □ Close and mutual cooperation among relevant administrative bodies
     □ Establishment of experiment and research systems
     □ Collection of internal and external information
     □ Ensuring the appropriate operation of a labeling system
     □ Promotion of education and learning
     □ Consideration for the effects on the environment

Formulation of the basic matters for implementation of measures (Article 21)

4. Establishment of the Food Safety Commission (implementation of risk assessment) (Article 22-38)
The Food Safety Commission comprises 7 commissioners who have deep insights into food safety. Expert Committees, comprising a total of about 240 members, have been established below the Food Safety Commission, to examine and discuss specialized matters.

The Expert Committees include the "Planning Expert Committee", which examines operational planning for the Food Safety Commission, the "Risk Communication Expert Committee", which examines the nature of risk communication, and the "Emergency Response Expert Committee", which examines the nature of responses in times of emergency. In addition to these three committees, 13 other Expert Committees have been established to examine and discuss items related to the risk assessment for each type of hazard. They cover such hazards as food additives, pesticides, microorganisms, and novel foods, and they are divided into three assessment groups - chemical substances, biological materials, and emerging foods.

The Secretariat is comprised of the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the General Affairs Division, the Risk Assessment Division, the Recommendation and Public Relations Division, the Information and Emergency Response Division, and the Director for Risk Communication.

### Organization of the Food Safety Commission and Secretariat

#### Commissioners of Food Safety Commission
- Takeshi Mikami (Chairman)
- Naoko Kolzumi
- Taku Nagao
- Kazumasa Nomura
- Keiko Hatae
- Seiichi Honma

#### Expert Committees (composed of total number of about 240 people)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Substance Assessment Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Food additives, Pesticides, Veterinary medicines, Apparatus/containers and packages, Chemical substances, Contaminants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Materials Assessment Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Microorganisms, Viruses, Prions, Natural toxins/mycotoxins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Foods Assessment Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Genetically modified foods, etc., Novel foods, Feed/fertilizer)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretariat (Director-General, Deputy Director-General, 4 Divisions, 1 Director)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Affairs Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Assessment Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation and Public Relations Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Emergency Response Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director for Risk Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The main roles of the Food Safety Commission are as follows.

1. **Implementation of risk assessments (assessment of the effect of food on health)**

The foods we eat contain not only nutrients, but also factors that may adversely affect our health. Furthermore, Escherichia coli O-157:H7 and other disease-causing agents may also be transmitted by food.

"Risk assessment" denotes the assessment of the effects of food on health as referred to in the Food Safety Basic Law, so that risk is the probability and the degree of the adverse effects of harmful factors on health, caused by eating food can be appropriately controlled. Risk assessment is implemented by conducting assessments in an objective, neutral and fair manner, and on the basis of scientific knowledge.

The Food Safety Commission implements risk assessments, either based on the requests for assessment from risk management organizations, or by the Food Safety Commission itself appointing matters to be assessed. The risk assessment is the primary role of the Food Safety Commission.

Based on the results from these risk assessments, the Food Safety Commission is able to make recommendations through the prime minister to the relevant ministers, who hold jurisdiction over the risk management organizations, on the policies to be implemented for ensuring food safety.
Promotion of risk communication is important for the new food safety administration to be correctly understood—that is, based on the assumption that risks do exist, the risks are appropriately controlled and the health of people in Japan is protected. The Food Safety Commission conducts risk communication of matters related to risk assessments, and it also coordinates the risk communication conducted by managing organizations.

The Food Safety Commission strives to ensure transparency, by holding commission’s meetings, generally once a week in front of general public, and by posting the minutes of the meetings on the Food Safety Commission’s website. All the expert committees meetings are open to the general public unless issues of intellectual properties and privacy are not involved. And, therefore the Food Safety Commission usually asks public opinions on assessment drafts prior to the finalization. Furthermore, the Food Safety Commission promotes risk communication while enhancing its collaboration with relevant organizations. In addition to actively providing information on the details of the risk assessments through such media as its website and quarterly journal, the Food Safety Commission also holds meetings for the exchange of opinions at various locations across Japan, which are attended by a broad range of relevant persons, including consumers and food-related business operators.

In addition, information and opinions are also being exchanged by means of the “Food Safety Hotline” and the 470 members of “Food Safety Monitors” from around Japan.

Responses to emergency situations

The Food Safety Commission routinely collects and analyzes domestic and international information on hazards pertaining to food safety, so that, in the event of a major food-related incident or other emergency situation, it can implement a quick and appropriate whole-of-government response to prevent the expansion and reoccurrence of the hazard. In times of emergency, after rapidly ascertaining the situation, the Food Safety Commission also performs such roles as issuing requests to the relevant ministries for their swift response, and providing easy-to-understand information to the public.

Other roles

Under the Food Safety Basic Law, the government is responsible for determining the “Basic Matters” related to the implementation of measures, which are to be taken in accordance with the provisions contained within the same law. Another role of the Food Safety Commission is to accept requests for advice from the Prime Minister, and to provide views on the items that should be incorporated into the Basic Matters.

In light of the opinions of the Food Safety Commission, in January 2004, the Basic Matters were endorsed by Cabinet. Since then, based on these Basic Matters, the risk management organizations, including the Food Safety Commission, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, have collaborated for the implementation of measures to ensure food safety.
Detailed descriptions of the following activities are available at the Food Safety Commission website (http://www.fsc.go.jp/).

(1) Risk assessment activities

Between its establishment in July 2003 and December 31, 2005, the Food Safety Commission had received requests for risk assessments (food safety risk assessments) for 470 items from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of the Environment. The Food Safety Commission had completed assessments for 208 items, and had reported back to the consultative bodies.

Following are examples of typical assessments conducted by the Food Safety Commission.

• Food Safety Risk Assessment Related to BSE

The Food Safety Commission shall conduct its own scientific assessments on general BSE-related issues, and as a result of the investigations and discussions by the Prion Expert Committee, in September 2004, the Food Safety Commission advised the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that: “Due to the current BSE tests and elimination of specified risk materials (SRM), it is surmised that the risk of an outbreak of vCJD in Japan has been mostly eliminated.”

Based on this advice, the Food Safety Commission received a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for an assessment of domestic BSE-related measures. Then, as a result of the investigations and discussions by the same Prion Expert Committee, in May 2005, the Food Safety Commission advised both of the Ministries that: “Assuming that the Beef Export Verification Program presented by the risk management organization (mandatory SRM removal in all cattle, export limitation of age to 20 months or younger, etc.) is observed, the difference in the risk levels of beef and other products derived from cattle in the United States/Canada and those in Japan is considered very small.” Furthermore, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries requested the Food Safety Commission to conduct a risk assessment with regard to beef and other products produced in the United States and Canada. As a result of the investigations and discussions by the same Expert Committee, in December 2005, the Food Safety Commission advised the results of the assessment to both of the Ministries that: “If it is supposed that the U.S. and Canadian export programs targeting Japan have been adhered to, then the difference in risks between beef and other products produced in the United States and Canada and beef and other products produced domestically is extremely small.”

• Food Safety Risk Assessment Related to Methylmercury in Seafood, etc.

The Food Safety Commission received a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for a risk assessment on “Methylmercury in Seafoods”. As a result of the investigations and discussions by the Contaminant Expert Committee, in August 2005, the Food Safety Commission advised the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare that: “The high risk group is fetuses; the tolerable weekly intake is 2.0µg/kg bw/week; and the tolerable intake covers both pregnant and potentially pregnant women.”

On receipt of this advice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare held discussion with the Joint Sub-Committees on Animal Origin Foods and Toxicology under the Food Sanitation Committee the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council, and on November 2, 2005, it released “Advice for Pregnant Women on Fish Consumption concerning Mercury Contamination”.

• Food Safety Risk Assessment Related to Madder color

In July 2004, the Food Safety Commission received a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for a risk assessment on Madder color. As a result of investigations and discussions based on the assessment of the Food Additives Expert Committee, in July 2004, the Food Safety Commission advised the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare that: “Though it is necessary to collect further toxicological data on organs/tissues other than kidneys, from the data presented, Madder color has been shown to be genotoxic as well as carcinogenic to kidneys. An ADI, Acceptable Daily Intake, cannot be established for Madder color.”

On receipt of this advice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare withdrew Madder color from the List of Existing Food Additives, and Madder color and foods containing Madder color were banned from being manufactured, sold or imported.

*1 “An ADI cannot be established” means that the allowable amount cannot be confirmed, or the amount that can be safely ingested cannot be shown.

*2 “Withdraw” refers to the substance being erased from the List of Existing Food Additives, which stipulates the food additives that can be used, and the subsequent use of the substance being prohibited.
## Processing of Requests, classified by Expert Committee

(as of December 31, 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Expert Committee</th>
<th>Existing requests</th>
<th>Assessment complete</th>
<th>Waiting for public comment</th>
<th>Currently being processed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Additives</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides*</td>
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<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>‾ including soft drinks</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicines</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Substances</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminants*</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‾ including soft drinks</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparatus/Containers and Packages</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microorganisms</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viruses</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Microorganisms and Viruses</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Toxins/Mycotoxins, etc.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetically Modified Foods, etc.</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novel Foods</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed/Fertilizer, etc.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Veterinary Medicine and Feed/Fertilizer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>470</strong></td>
<td><strong>208</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>259</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The relevant sections of the Pesticide Expert Committee and the Contaminant Expert Committee contain 93 types of pesticides and 48 types of contaminants for which requests for assessment have been made related to the revisions of the standards related to soft drinks.

In addition, the Food Safety Commission has conducted its own reviews into risk assessment issues to be addressed, and has decided to conduct risk assessments on microorganisms that cause foodborne illnesses, including Listeria monocytogenes. In conjunction with this, the Food Safety Commission compiled scientific knowledge on Q fever, and provided this information to the people of Japan in the form of a fact sheet, releasing it to the public on its website once complete.

The Food Safety Commission is committed to designing policies for food safety risk assessments, materials for seeking submissions, and guidelines that describe the procedures of assessment, as appropriate, for each type of hazard.

Since its inauguration in July 2003, and up until the end of December 2005, the Food Safety Commission had formulated eight sets of guidelines, and it has been proceeding with food safety risk assessments based on these.

## Guidelines Formulated by the Food Safety Commission

(as of December 31, 2005)

- Standards for the Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Foods (Seed Plants)
- Views on the Safety Assessment of Hybridizing Genetically Modified Plants
- Views on the Food Safety Risk Assessment related to the Official Specifications of Normal Fertilizer
- Standards for the Safety Assessment of Food Additives Manufactured Using Genetically Modified Microorganisms
- Views on the Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Feed and Feed Additives
- Assessment Guidelines for the Food Safety Risk Assessment of Selected Drug-Resistance Bacteria by Using Antibacterial Substances in Livestock and other Animals
- View on the safety Assessment of Food Additives, Manufactured Using Genetically Modified Microorganisms, which are Highly Refined Nonprotein Food Additive Final Products such as Amino Acids

Furthermore, with regard to previously assessed items, for which the results of risk assessments have been advised, in order to identify whether those assessment results have been appropriately reflected in the policies for ensuring food safety, the Food Safety Commission conducts investigations about each 6 months at each managing ministries on the implementation status of measures based on the assessment results.
(2) Risk communication activities

In order to ensure transparency and to provide information related to risk assessments (such as the progress of discussions), as a rule, meetings of the Food Safety Commission, generally held once a week, and the individual Expert Committees are open to the general public, and minutes of the meetings, etc. are made public on the website.

In conducting a risk assessment, as a general rule, public opinion and information is called for on the proposed results of deliberations, and while collaborating with the risk management organizations, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc., on the details of the risk assessment, meetings to exchange opinions on the safety of food are held in various regions across Japan. Consumers, food-related business operators and other relevant people participate at these meetings, and they exchange ideas and information. With regard to the BSE issue, which is of particularly high interest to the public, in order to promote understanding among the people of Japan, with the cooperation of the local governments, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held meetings for the exchange of opinions in various locations nationwide, and in order to draw upon the efforts for BSE in overseas countries for Japan's future policies, experts were invited from different countries, and meetings to exchange opinions were held.

Another communication activity was the establishment in August 2003 of the “Food Safety Hotline”, to receive information, inquiries and opinions related to food safety from people in Japan. Matters, for which many inquiries are received, are organized into Q&A, and posted on the website.

In addition to these activities, so that the Food Safety Commission can provide easy-to-understand information on food safety to a broad spectrum of consumers, it organizes information on foodborne bacteria (including BSE, vCJD, avian influenza, and Listeria monocytogenes) as topics on the website, and it also publishes pamphlets, leaflets, glossaries on food safety, and the quarterly journal “Food Safety” (in general, four publications a year).

Furthermore, so that consumers can give us their opinions on the safety of food, etc. through their daily lives, every year since fiscal 2003, the Food Safety Commission has issued requests for “Food Safety Monitors” to 470 people from each of the regions around the country. The monitors conduct questionnaire surveys to identify the awareness of food safety, etc., and they report on information and opinions. The monitors also cooperate in the provision of information to local communities.

With regard to risk communication related to food safety in Japan, which is still in its infancy, from among the numerous opinions and views on the purpose of risk communication and the methods for how to implement it, in order to show the current conditions and problems in an easy-to-understand way, the Risk Communication Expert Committee summarized this information into the “Current Conditions and Issues in Risk Communication related to Food Safety”. The summary was approved at the Food Safety Commission meeting held in July 2004. In the future, in light of this summary, the Food Safety Commission plans to develop even more effective risk communication.

Main Meetings Held for the Exchange of Opinions

(as of December 31, 2005)

Meetings to exchange opinions on food safety, including the results of risk assessments

→ 204 meetings (including those held jointly with relevant agencies and local governments)

Following are the key themes for the meetings which have been planned and hosted by the Food Safety Commission

• Risk assessment related to beef and other products produced in the U.S.A. and Canada
• Risk assessment related to measures against BSE in Japan
• Risk assessment related to methylmercury in seafood
• Genetically modified foods
• Drug-Resistance Bacteria
• Avian influenza
(3) Responses to emergency situations

In cooperation with the Food Safety Commission, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of the Environment, the “Basic Guideline for Emergency Operations to Food Safety among the Governmental Agencies” was formulated in April 2004 in order to respond appropriately to emergencies related to food safety, such as the outbreak of a serious food-related incident.

The guideline stipulates that the Food Safety Commission and the risk management organizations (the governmental agencies) shall, while maintaining sufficient mutual cooperation, routinely collect, organize and analyze information on hazards related to the outbreak of food-related incidents. By implementing rapid and appropriate whole-of-government emergency responses, they shall also strive to proactively prevent and control the adverse effects on the health of the public. Furthermore, in the event of an emergency situation, the Food Safety Commission and the risk management organizations shall coordinate sufficiently with each other, and shall swiftly provide information to the public through the mass media, government announcements and the Internet.

Based on the Guideline, the “Basic Procedural Manual for Emergency Operations to Food Safety (the Food Safety Commission, Japan)” has also been formulated, setting out the activities for the Food Safety Commission.

Furthermore, consideration was given to the formulation of an emergency operation manual, classified by different types of hazards. With regard to emergency responses to foodborne illnesses, the Food Safety Commission and the risk management organizations collaborated together, and in April 2005, they formulated the “Guideline for Emergency Operations to Foodborne Illnesses among the Governmental Agencies”. This Guideline stipulates the roles and coordination of the governmental agencies so that appropriate responses can be implemented in emergency situations caused by foodborne illnesses. Based on this Guideline on Foodborne Illnesses, the “Procedural Manual for Emergency Operations to Foodborne Illnesses (the Food Safety Commission, Japan)” has also been formulated, setting out how the Food Safety Commission should respond in the event of an emergency caused by a foodborne illness.

Based on these guidelines and procedural manuals, the Food Safety Commission is dedicated to responding appropriately in emergency situations caused by the ingestion of food.

Separate whole-of-government measures are to be implemented in emergencies during which substantial damage is incurred, such as disasters or bioterrorisms.

Role of the Food Safety Commission in Emergencies

- **Minister of State for Food Safety**: Determines whether to set up Emergency Headquarters according to the situation.
- **Food Safety Commission**: Collection and analysis of domestic and international information on hazards; Requests for response from risk management organizations; Provision of scientific information to the public.
- **Risk Management Organizations**: Risk management measures for food sanitation; agricultural, forestry, and fishery products; and environmental pollution, etc.
- **General consumers, Food-related business operators, Media organizations**: Immediate reporting.
- **Information sharing and cooperation**: Risk communication.
- **Report**: Set up as necessary.
The Food Safety Commission has received numerous requests for risk assessment from relevant ministries, and it will continue to advance scientific discussion from a neutral and fair perspective, and steadily implement these assessments.

In particular, it is predicted that there will be a significant increase in the number of requests for risk assessment associated with the introduction of the positive list system related to pesticides residues on food, veterinary medicines, and feed additives. Accordingly, the Food Safety Commission will work to enhance the framework for smoothly implementing risk assessments.

Furthermore, the Food Safety Commission will continue to actively conduct its own risk assessments, such as by regularly reviewing the matters for assessment, based on information received from relevant organizations, and on requests received from the public. It is also committed to proceeding with “the formulation of guidelines for the assessment of microorganisms that cause foodborne illness, and the assessment of individual microorganisms subsequent to the priority of microorganisms to be assessed being determined” which the Food Safety Commission itself decided to assess.

With regard to risk communication, the Food Safety Commission will continue to hold meetings for the exchange of opinion on matters which are of high interest to the public, and it will continue with its active endeavors, including the exchange of information and opinions through the Food Safety Hotline and the Food Safety Monitor, as well as the provision of information by way of the website and quarterly journal. Through the Risk Communication Expert Committee, the Food Safety Commission is committed to pushing forward with reviews for even more effective risk communication techniques.

In addition to the above activities, with regard to domestic and international information related to food safety, the Food Safety Commission will accumulate and organize relevant information for the “Total Information System for Food Safety”, which is to be built between fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2006 (operations partially commenced in June 2005). The Food Safety Commission also strives to provide information through its website, and to share information with relevant organizations.

Meanwhile, the Food Safety Commission is also committed to conducting investigations into ensuring food safety, conducting research on technology for assessing the risk of food on human health, and communicating information on the results of its activities both internally and externally.

Through these activities, the Food Safety Commission will continue to strive for the scientific assessment of food safety, based on the recognition of the basic principle that protecting the health of Japanese citizens is the top priority.
The Food Safety Basic Law (Tentative Translation)

Law No. 48, May 23, 2003/12/15

Contents

Chapter I General Provisions (Articles 1-10)
Chapter II Basic Direction for Policy Formulation (Articles 11-21)
Chapter III Food Safety Commission (Articles 22-38)

Chapter I General Provisions

(Purpose)
Article 1
In consideration of the vital importance of precise responses to the development of science and technology, and to the progress of internationalization and other changes in the environment surrounding Japan’s dietary habits, the purpose of this Law is to comprehensively promote policies to ensure food safety by establishing basic principles, by clarifying the responsibilities of the state, local governments, and food-related business operators and the roles of consumers, and establishing a basic direction for policy formulation, in order to ensure food safety.

(Definition)
Article 2
“Food” as used in this Law shall mean all food and drink (excluding drugs and quasi-drugs provided by the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law (Law No. 145 of 1960)).

(Basic recognition in taking measures for ensuring food safety)
Article 3
Food safety shall be ensured by taking the necessary measures based on the simple recognition that the protection of the health of our citizens is a top priority.

(Appropriate measures at each stage of the food supply process)
Article 4
Food safety may be affected by every element in a series of internal and external food supply processes, from the production of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products to food sales (hereinafter referred to as “food supply process”); it thus shall be ensured by taking the necessary measures appropriately at each stage of the food supply process.

(Prevention of adverse effects on the health of citizens)
Article 5
Food safety shall be ensured by taking the necessary measures on the basis of scientific knowledge and in sufficient consideration of international trends and the opinions of citizens with respect to ensuring food safety, for the purpose of preventing adverse effects on the health of citizens due caused by food.

(Responsibilities of the state)
Article 6
The state shall be responsible for comprehensively formulating and implementing policies to ensure food safety on the code of basic principles for ensuring food safety, provided in the preceding three articles (hereinafter referred to as the “basic principles”).

(Responsibilities of the local governments)
Article 7
Local governments shall be responsible for formulating and implementing policies to ensure food safety that corresponds to the natural, economic, and social conditions of the area under their jurisdiction, on the code of the basic principles and on the basis of an appropriate sharing of roles with the state.

(Responsibility of food-related business operators)
Article 8
Business operators that produce, import, sell, or conduct other business for fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, feed, feed additives, veterinary medicines and other production materials for agriculture, forestry, or fishery that may have an effect on food safety, food (including agricultural, forestry, and fishery products used as raw materials or materials), additives (those provided in Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Food Sanitation Law (Law No. 233 of 1947)), apparatuses (those provided in Article 2, paragraph 4 of the said Law) or containers and packages (those provided in Article 2, paragraph 5 of the said Law) (hereinafter referred to as “food-related business operators”) shall be responsible for appropriately taking the necessary measures to ensure food safety at each stage of the food supply process. This will be done according to the code of the basic principles and on the basis of the recognition that they bear the primary responsibility for ensuring food safety when conducting their business activities.

2. In addition to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, food-related business operators shall, in conducting their business activities, make efforts to provide accurate and appropriate information concerning food and other articles related to their own business activities on the code of the basic principles.

3. In addition to the provisions of the preceding two paragraphs, food-related business operators shall be responsible for cooperating in policies that are implemented by the state or the local governments, on the code of the basic principles, to ensure food safety.

(Roles of consumers)
Article 9
Consumers shall play an active role in ensuring food safety by endeavoring to improve their own knowledge and understanding of food safety and by making efforts to express their opinions about policies to ensure food safety.

(Legislative measures, etc.)
Article 10
The government shall take legislative or financial measures and other necessary measures to implement policies to ensure food safety.
Chapter II Basic Directions for Policy Formulation

(Implementation of assessment of the effect of food on health)

Article 11
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, assessment (hereinafter referred to as the “assessment of the effect of food on health) shall be made for each policy on the effects that potentially harmful biological, chemical, or physical agents in food or the condition of food have on human health, through the ingestion of the food, provided that this shall not apply to the following cases:
(1) where the assessment of the effect of food on health is explicitly unnecessary in consideration of the contents of the measure;
(2) where the contents and degree of adverse effects on human health are clear;
(3) where there is no time to conduct an assessment of the effects of food on health in advance in cases where the measure is urgently necessary to prevent or control an adverse effect on human health.
2. In cases as cited in (3) of the preceding paragraph, the assessment of the effect of food on health shall be conducted subsequently and without delay.
3. The assessment of the effect of food on health provided in the preceding two paragraphs shall be conducted in an objective, neutral, and fair manner on the basis of the state-of-the-art scientific knowledge of the time.

(Formulation of policies on the basis of the results of the assessment of the effect of food on health in consideration of the conditions of nationals’ dietary habits and other circumstances)

Article 12
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, it shall be conducted for the purpose of preventing and restraining the adverse effect of food ingestion on human health, in consideration of the dietary habits of citizens and other circumstances, and on the basis of the results of the assessment of effect of food on health if conducted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 or 2 of the preceding article.

(Promotion of exchanges of information and opinions)

Article 13
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures for promoting the mutual exchange of information and opinions among persons or parties concerned, such as provision of information concerning the policies and the granting of opportunities to comment on those policies, shall be taken to reflect public opinion in the formulation of the policies and to ensure the transparency and fairness of the process.

(Establishment of a system to cope with emergency and other situations)

Article 14
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures, such as establishment of a system to cope with or prevent emergency situations that cause or are liable to cause serious damage to human health by food ingestion, shall be taken to prevent such damage.

(Close and mutual cooperation among related administrative bodies)

Article 15
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, close and mutual cooperation among related administrative bodies shall be made to create the necessary measures for ensuring food safety to be appropriately taken at each stage of the food supply process.

(Establishment of research and other systems)

Article 16
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures, such as establishment of research systems, promotion of research and development, dissemination of results thereof and training of researchers, shall be taken in consideration that efforts to improve scientific knowledge are important for ensuring food safety.

(Collection, arrangement, and utilization of internal and external information)

Article 17
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures such as the collection, arrangement, and utilization of internal and external information about ensuring food safety, shall be taken to appropriately and effectively implement the necessary measures for ensuring food safety in response to changes in the environment surrounding Japanese dietary habits.

(Ensuring appropriate labeling)

Article 18
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures for accurately conveying the information on food, such as ensuring the appropriate operation of a food labeling system, shall be taken in consideration that food labeling plays an important role in ensuring food safety.

(Education and learning regarding ensuring food safety)

Article 19
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, necessary measures for improving knowledge and understanding of ensuring food safety among citizens shall be taken by promoting education and learning and improving public relations activities on ensuring food safety.

(Consideration for effects on the environment)

Article 20
In formulating policies to ensure food safety, the effects of policies on the environment shall be considered.

(Determination and publication of Basic Matters concerning implementation of measures)

Article 21
The government shall determine basic matters concerning implementation of measures (hereinafter referred to as “Basic Matters”) that are to be taken in accordance with the provisions of Articles 11 to 20.
2. The Prime Minister shall formulate a draft of Basic Matters after hearing the opinions of the Food Safety Commission and ask the Cabinet for its decision.
3. The Prime Minister shall promulgate the Basic Matters without delay once the Cabinet has made its decision in accordance with the provision of
the preceding paragraph.

4. The provisions of the preceding two paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis to the changes of the Basic Matters.

Chapter III Food Safety Commission

(Establishment)

Article 22

The Food Safety Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”) shall be established in the Cabinet Office.

(Office duties under the jurisdiction of the Commission)

Article 23

The Commission shall take charge of the following office duties:

(1) to offer opinions to the Prime Minister in accordance with the provisions of Article 21, paragraph 2;

(2) to conduct an assessment of the effects of food on health in accordance with the provisions of the following article or at its direction;

(3) to make recommendations to related ministers through the Prime Minister about policies to be implemented for ensuring food safety on the basis of the results of the assessment of the effect of food on health, which was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the preceding item;

(4) to monitor the implementation conditions of policies that are implemented on the basis of the results of the assessment of the effect of food on health, which was conducted in accordance with the provisions of item (2), and to make recommendations to related ministers through the Prime Minister if necessary;

(5) to examine and deliberate on important matters regarding policies to be implemented for ensuring food safety, and to give opinions to the heads of related administrative bodies if necessary;

(6) to conduct scientific research and study necessary to perform office duties cited in items (2) to (5);

(7) to plan and implement the mutual exchange of information and opinions among persons or parties concerned with respect of office duties cited in items (2) to (6); and

(8) to coordinate office duties conducted by related administrative bodies regarding the mutual exchange of information and opinions among persons or parties concerned with respect to ensuring food safety.

2. When the Commission conducts the assessment of the effect of food on health in accordance with the provisions of (2) of the preceding paragraph, it shall notify related ministers of the results of the assessment without delay.

3. When the Commission has given notification in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph or made a recommendation in accordance with the provisions of (3) or (4) of paragraph 1, it shall publish the contents of the notification or the recommendation without delay.

4. Related ministers shall report to the Commission on policies that they have implemented on the basis of a recommendation in accordance with the provisions of (3) or (4) of paragraph 1.

(Hearing of the Commission’s opinions)

Article 24

In any of the following cases, related ministers shall hear the Commission’s opinions, provided that this shall not apply to cases that the Commission recognizes as falling under Article 11, paragraph 1 (1) or that the related minister recognizes as falling under (3) of the same paragraph:

(1) when intending to prescribe cases that are not injurious to human health as provided in the proviso of Article 6 (2) of the Food Sanitation Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 62, paragraph 2 of the said Law), when intending to prohibit sales in accordance with the provisions cited in paragraphs (1) to (3) of Article 7 of the said Law or to dissolve the prohibition in accordance with Article 4 of the said Law partially or entirely, when intending to enact, amend or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 9, paragraph 1 of the said law, when intending to prescribe cases that are not injurious to human health as provided in Article 10 of the said Law, when intending to establish standards or specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 62, paragraph 2 of the said Law) or Article 18, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 62, paragraph 3 of the said Law), or when intending to establish standards in accordance with the provisions of Article 50, paragraph 1 of the said Law;

(2) when intending to set, change, or abolish official specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 1-3 of the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law (Law No. 82 of 1948), when intending to designate or change the designation of specified agricultural chemicals in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to establish or change the standards (excluding standards for determining whether falling under cases cited in Article 3, paragraph 1 (6) or (7) of the said Law) provided in Article 3, paragraph 2 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 15-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law);

(3) when intending to set, change, or abolish official specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Fertilizer Control Law (Law No. 127 of 1950), when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Cabinet Order provided in Article 4, paragraph 1 (4) of the said Law, when intending to register or register provisionally specified normal fertilizers in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, paragraph 1 or Article 8, paragraph 3 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 33-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law), when intending to register or register provisionally changes of specified normal fertilizers in accordance with the provisions of Article 13-2, paragraph 2 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 33-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law), or when intending to register or register provisionally changes of specified normal fertilizers, or to abolish registrations or provisional registrations in accordance with the provisions of Article 13-3, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 33-2, paragraph 6 of the said Law);

(4) when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law (Law No. 166 of 1951), when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ordinance, which prescribes reported communicable diseases referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 62, paragraph 1 of the said Law;

(5) when intending to designate feed additives in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Law Concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feed (Law No. 35 of 1953), when intending to establish, amend, or abolish standards or specifications in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to prohibit manufacture, import, sales, or use in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the said Law;

(6) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 6, Article 9, Article 13, paragraph 1 (3), or Article 14, paragraph 6 (2) or (3) of the Abattoirs Law (Law No. 114 of 1953), or when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolishment of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 14, paragraph 7 of the said Law;

(7) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 4, paragraph 2 (limited to the part pertaining to the provisions of paragraph 1 (1) to (3) of the said article) of the Waterworks Law (Law No. 177 of 1957);

(8) when intending to give approval for drugs, quasi-drugs, or medical instruments for the purpose of use for animals (hereinafter referred to as “veterinary medicine, etc.”) in accordance with the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 1 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law or the provisions of the said Law.
paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to give approval for veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 14-3, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 20, paragraph 1 of the said Law; the same shall apply hereunder) or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to conduct a re-examination of veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 14-4, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 19-4, the same shall apply hereunder) or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to conduct re-assessment of veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 14-6, paragraph 1 of the said Law (including cases where it applies mutatis mutandis in Article 19-4 of the said Law; the same shall apply hereunder) or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, when intending to give approval for veterinary medicine, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Article 19-2, paragraph 1 of the said Law or the provisions of the said paragraph applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law, or when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ordinance provided in Article 83-5, paragraph 1 of the said Law or the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 2 (3) of the said Law applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 83, paragraph 1 of the said Law;

(9) when intending to form a plan for the enactment, amendment, or abolition of the Cabinet Order (limited to those that designate substances contained in agricultural land soil, which are feared to become the source of the production of agricultural crops, and livestock that are feared to be harmful to human health) provided in Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Agricultural Land Soil Pollution Prevention Law (Law No. 139 of 1970) or the Cabinet Order provided in Article 3, paragraph 1 of the said Law (limited to those that prescribe conditions for areas where the agricultural lands are understood to be used for the production of agricultural crops and livestock that are feared to be harmful to human health or where the fear thereof is understood to be conspicuous);

(10) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 11, Article 15, paragraph 4 (2) or (3), paragraph (6) or Article 19 of the Poultry Slaughtering Business Control and Poultry Meat Inspection Law (Law No. 70 of 1990);

(11) when intending to cease or exclude the name of additives in accordance with the provisions of Article 2-2, paragraph 1 of Supplementary Provisions of The Law Concerning Amendments to the Food Sanitation Law and the Nutrition Improvement Law (Law No. 101 of 1995).

(12) when intending to form a plan for enactment, amendment, or abolition of the Cabinet Order provided in Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Law Concerning Special Measures against Dioxins (Law No. 105 of 1999);

(13) when intending to enact, amend, or abolish the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ordinance provided in Article 7, paragraph 1 or 2 of the Law concerning Special Measures against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Law No. 70 of 2002); and

(14) in addition to those cited in the preceding items, cases provided by the Cabinet Order.

2. In cases falling under the proviso of the preceding paragraph (limited to cases recognized by the related ministers as falling under Article 11, paragraph 1 (3)), related ministers shall report such fact to the Commission and hear its opinions within a certain period of time after the formulation of policies to ensure the safety of the food.

3. In addition to cases provided in paragraph 1, related ministers may hear the Commission’s opinions if they are recognized as necessary for formulating policies to ensure food safety.

(Request for submission of materials, etc.)

Article 25

The Commission may request that the heads of related administrative bodies submit materials, opinions, and explanations and provide other necessary cooperation, if it is recognized to be necessary for performing office duties under its jurisdiction.

(Entrustment of investigation)

Article 26

The Commission may entrust necessary investigations to incorporated administrative agencies, juristic persons incorporated in accordance with the provisions of Article 34 of the Civil Code of Japan (Law No. 89 of 1896), enterprises and other private bodies, prefectural experimental and research institutes, or persons of learning and experience, if it is recognized to be necessary for performing office duties under its jurisdiction.

(Request in an emergency)

Article 27

The Commission may request that the research institutes of related national administrative bodies conduct an investigation, analysis, or examination necessary for the assessment of the effect of food on health if it is recognized to be necessary for coping with emergency situations that cause or are liable to cause serious damage concerning ensuring food safety.

2. If the research institutes of related national administrative bodies receive a request from the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph, they shall promptly implement the requested research, analysis, or examination.

3. The Commission may request that related ministers make a demand in accordance with the provisions of Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, National Institute of Health and Nutrition Law (Law No. 180 of 1999) or a request in accordance with the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, Center for Food Quality, Labeling and Consumer Services Law (Law No. 183 of 1999), Article 18, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization Law (Law No. 192 of 1999), Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences Law (Law No. 194 of 1999), or Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Incorporated Administrative Agency, Fisheries Research Agency Law (Law No. 199 of 1999), if it is recognized to be necessary for coping with emergency situations that cause or are liable to cause serious damage to the ensuring of food safety.

(Organization)

Article 28

The Commission shall be organized by seven commission members.

2. Three out of the seven Commission Members shall be part-time members.

(Appointment of Commission Members)

Article 29

With approval from both Houses, the Prime Minister shall appoint Commission Members who have superior insight into ensuring food safety.

2. In spite of the provisions of the preceding paragraph, if he/she cannot obtain approval on the appointment from both Houses due to the Diet’s closing or the dissolution of the House of Representatives in cases where the term of the Commission Members has expired or a vacancy for a Commission Member arises.
3. In cases falling under the preceding paragraph, the Prime Minister shall obtain subsequent approval from both Houses at the first Diet session after the relevant appointment. If the Prime Minister cannot obtain subsequent approval from both Houses in such a case, the Prime Minister shall immediately dismiss the Commission Member.

(Term of the Commission Member)
Article 30
The term of the Commission Member shall be three years, provided that the term of a substitute Commission Member shall be the remaining term of his/her predecessor.
2. The Commission Member may be reappointed.
3. If the term of the Commission Member has expired, the relevant Commission Member shall perform his/her duties until a successor is appointed.

(Dismissal of the Commission Member)
Article 31
With approval from both Houses, the Prime Minister may dismiss the Commission Member if the Commission member is recognized as being incapable of performing his/her duties due to physical or mental disability or if recognized as constituting a violation of his/her official obligations or other delinquency inappropriate for a Commission Member.

(Service of the Commission Member)
Article 32
The Commission Member shall not disclose secrets that he/she has come to know through his/her duties. The same shall apply even after he/she leaves the office.
2. The Commission Member, while in office, shall not serve as an officer of a political party or other political association or actively take part in political movements.
3. The full-time Commission Member, while in office, shall not engage in another job for remuneration, run a commercial enterprise, or conduct any other business for the purpose of financially gain except where he/she has received permission from the Prime Minister.

(Allowance of the Commission Member)
Article 33
The salary of the Commission Member shall be provided by a separate law.

(Chairperson)
Article 34
The position of Chairperson shall be established in the Commission and the Chairperson shall be appointed by full-time Commission Members by a mutual vote among the Commission Members.
2. The Chairman shall administrate the duties of the Commission and shall represent the Commission.
3. In the event that the Chairperson has an accident, the full-time Commission Member who has been designated in advance by the Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson.

(Meeting)
Article 35
The Commission shall be assembled by the Chairperson.
2. The Commission shall not hold a meeting nor make any decisions without the attendance of the Chairperson and at least three Commission Members.
3. The proceedings of the Commission shall be determined by the majority of attendees, and in cases in which the Commission is evenly divided, it shall be as determined by the Chairperson.
4. With respect to the application of the provisions of paragraph 2 about cases in which the Chairperson is in an accident, the Committee Member provided in paragraph 3 of the preceding article shall be deemed to be the Chairperson.

(Expert Commission Member)
Article 36
The Commission may request an Expert Commission Member to examine and deliberate on specialized matters.
2. The Prime Minister shall appoint the Expert Commission Member from persons of learning and experience.
3. The Expert Commission Member shall be dismissed at the completion of the examination and deliberation of the relevant specialized matters.
4. The Expert Commission Member shall serve on a part-time basis.

(Secretariat)
Article 37
The Commission shall establish the Secretariat to deal with clerical work.
2. The Secretariat shall have the necessary officials as well as the Secretary-General.
3. The Secretary-General shall administer the duties of the Secretariat at the behest of the Chairperson.

(Delegation to Cabinet Order)
Article 38
In addition to matters provided in this Chapter, necessary matters regarding the Commission shall be provided by Cabinet Order.

Chapter IV Additional Clauses
Abbreviation
Transport

* 3-minute walk from the “Akasaka-Mitsuke Station” on the Tokyo Metro Ginza & Marunouchi Lines.
* 6-minute walk from the “Nagatacho Station” on the Tokyo Metro Namboku and Hanzomon Lines.
  Leave from Exit 8, and proceed along Gaien Street toward Tameike-Sanno. On left.
* 8-minute walk from the “Nagatacho Station” on the Tokyo Metro Yurakucho Line.
  Leave from exit 1, and proceed toward the Official Residence of the President of the House of Councillors and the Embassy of Mexico.

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