

Research Report on International Economy and Foreign Affairs

(Interim Report)

(Excerpt)

June 2020

Research Committee on International Economy and Foreign Affairs

House of Councillors

The National Diet of Japan

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Foreword

The huge sea covering 70% of the earth's surface is a mother ocean which protects and nurtures life from a harsh environment. From ancient times until today, people have been out in ocean and expanded the behavior area to the global scale by racking their brains and improving their skills although facing tough challenges, while have been utilizing ocean in variety of ways including securing food, economic activities such as trade as well as national security. The activation of human activities through the ocean has increased the utility value of the ocean and brought about a huge leap for humankind. On the other hand, the ocean has revealed its characteristics as a place where humans confront each other over its control. In addition, various environmental problems such as rise in sea water temperature and acidification as well as oceanic pollution have threatened the sustainability of a mother ocean, and there is concern that the survival of humankind will be seriously affected. Therefore, it can be said that current various international and economic issues are related to the ocean in various ways.

Thereby, it is a great responsibility of us living in the present age to pass the ocean on to the future generations by properly utilizing the irreplaceable sea, which is the "Global Commons" along with the "sky", "space", and "cyberspace" in a sustainable manner not being as a place of conflict. As a maritime nation surrounded by sea on all sides and connected to the rest of the world through the sea, Japan has learned from the ocean, co-existed with the ocean, and enjoyed many benefits. There is a possibility that Japan will be able to make a great contribution to this magnificent issue that also leads to international society and what human race should be in the future, therefore it is high time to deepen the discussion on what kind of "position" Japan should hold for a new era.

Based on the recognition mentioned above, the Committee decided on "Japan Living with the World through the Ocean" as the theme for this three-year term's research and started the research for the first year in order to derive measures to solve the above-mentioned problems by extensively considering concrete problems concerning the ocean from various angles and comprehensively.

I. Research Process

The House of Councillors establishes Research Committees to conduct long-term and comprehensive research relating to fundamental matters of government. For the purpose of conducting long-term and comprehensive research on the international economy and foreign affairs, the Research Committee on International Economy and Foreign Affairs was established on October 4, 2019, during the 200th session of the National Diet (Extraordinary session).

At a Board of Directors meeting on December 9, 2019, the Committee decided on “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean” as the theme for this three-year term’s research. In addition, we covered “Concept of Ocean Utilization and Development Including Securing of Marine Energy and Mineral Resources”, “Concept of Various Problems and Efforts Regarding the Maritime Environment”, and “Efforts and Roles of Japan to lead the International Community as a Maritime Nation” as three subsidiary research themes and decided to proceed with the research.

At the beginning, in the 201st Diet session (Ordinary session), as proceeds with future research, the Committee listened to explanation from the government informant and asked them questions and also listened to opinions of two voluntary testifiers and asked them questions with respect to “Japan’s Ocean Policy” as a research in order to grasp the basic framework of Japan's efforts and international law of the Sea comprehensively and generally since there are various types of measures and issues with regard to the ocean (February 5, 2020). Then the Committee selected “Concept of Ocean Utilization and Development Including Securing of Marine Energy and Mineral Resources” from among the three research themes and listened to opinions of three voluntary testifiers in each and asked them questions about “Management and Protection of Fishery Resources” and “Management and Utilization of Submarine Resources and Maritime Renewable Energy and their Future Development” (February 12 and 26, 2020). Lastly, the Committee adopted “Efforts and Roles of Japan to lead the International Community as a Maritime Nation” and

listened to opinions of three voluntary testifiers and asked them questions about “Strengthen the Foundation of Maritime Industry” and the Committee members exchanged views with each other on research themes of “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean” (June 3, 2020).

II. Research Outline

1. Japan's Ocean Policy (February 5, 2020)

The Committee agreed to carry out research on a variety of issues related to the ocean from three perspectives of utilization and development of marine resources and energy, various environmental issues, and Japan's role in the international community. As proceed with conducting comprehensive research effectively based on the full recognition of the mutual relations among those issues, the Committee decided to grasp the current status and all issues relating to Japan's Ocean Policy comprehensively and generally from two perspectives such as general policy and international law.

Japan's Ocean Policy is implemented based on the Basic Act on Ocean Policy established in 2007 and the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy formulated based on the Act. In the current Third Basic Plan reviewed in 2018, main policies such as the promotion of the industrial use of ocean, maintenance and preservation of the maritime environment are considered on thought of Comprehensive Maritime Security based on a current change of circumstances in ocean. Therefore, it is required to understand and verify the current situation and issues of such policies and efforts.

There is a treaty United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that comprehensively regulates various maritime issues in the international community, and Japan is a contracting party. International law of the Sea has historically emphasized utilization based on the freedom of the seas, however in response to changes in awareness of rights due to changes in international relations and global issues including environmental problems, UNCLOS has been changing by setting a certain restriction on "freedom of the high seas" and "flag state principle". Japan, as a maritime nation, needs to consider the best way to involve in various issues such as establishing a stable legal order of the ocean under UNCLOS.

Based on the above recognition, the Committee listened to Government's explanation

from the Cabinet Office with respect to Japan's Ocean Policy and asked the relevant ministries and agencies questions.

The points of discussion included the following matters: strengthening maritime security, development of submarine resources, promotion of measures based on the Basic Act on Ocean Policy and the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, the current status and issues of port promotion, efforts related to fishery resources management, efforts toward reduction of marine wastes including microplastics, and the current status and prospects for the introduction of offshore wind power generation in Japan.

Then, the Committee listened to opinions of voluntary testifiers and discussed with them about the outline of various issues concerning Japan's Ocean Policy and ways of Japan's pioneering international contribution through ocean policy from the perspective of international law.

The points of discussion included the following matters: Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, the current status and issues related to promotion and defense in the minor islands, issues surrounding the Senkaku Islands and the dispute settlement in foreign countries, Comprehensive Maritime Security on the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, rule of law at sea, current status and issues of development of marine resources, current status of gas field development on the geographical equidistance line between Japan and China and the possibility of Japan-China joint development of submarine resources, ways of development of marine human resources, the evaluation of discharging of contaminated water from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station to the ocean, current status of international container and bulk strategic port policy and how the quarantine system for cruise ships should be, definition of power in international law and geopolitics, and the need to create an environment to get friendly with the ocean.

a. Outline of Government Explanation

(Omitted)

b. Main Points of Discussion (Questions to the Government)

(Omitted)

c. Outline of Statement of Opinions by Voluntary Testifiers

(Omitted)

d. Main Points of Discussion (Questions to the Voluntary Testifiers)

(Omitted)

2. Concept of Ocean Utilization and Development Including Securing of Marine Energy and Mineral Resources

(1) Management and Protection of Fishery Resources (February 12, 2020)

In recent years, in the ocean area around Japan, there are concerns about the phenomena including Isoyake (barren ground) where seaweeds that form seaweed beds disappear in familiar coastal waters, and the decline of seaweed beds due to active activity of seaweed-feeding organisms even in winter is occurring as well as adverse effects of plastic waste on marine ecosystems including fishery resources.

In addition, Japan's fishery production peaked in 1984 and has been on a downward trend since then. Especially it has fallen to about one-third in the last 30 years. A variety of factors have been pointed out such as the influence on the distribution and migration of fishery resources due to the changing in the maritime environment such as climate change and the activation and overfishing of foreign fishing vessels in the waters around Japan.

Regarding the management of marine mammals such as whales, Japan has offered a suggestion in pursuit of coexistence of different positions with the aim of recovering the function of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as a resource management institution, in where there are ongoing conflicts between countries that support the sustainable use of whales and anti-whaling countries which prioritize the protection of whales. However, the Japan's proposal was rejected at the 67th IWC General Assembly in September 2018. Japan has determined that it is extremely difficult to achieve both sustainable use and protection of whales under the current IWC. In December 2018, Japan announced to withdraw from the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), and in July 2019, Japan resumed commercial whaling which had been suspended since 1988.

Sustainable use of marine resources is one of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), however, there are a number of challenges to achieve it. Japan

has a basic stance of sustainable use of fishery resources based on scientific evidence. We have to consider what Japan should do once again.

Based on the above recognition, the Committee listened to opinions of voluntary testifiers and discussed with them about various issues related to fish, Japan's management of fishery resources based on an international perspective, and the past and the future of whaling in Japan.

The points of discussion included the following matters: measures for utilizing unused fish, measures for the lack of interest in fish eating among young people and children, measures necessary for the government to promote public understanding of the ocean and marine life, Japan's cultural characteristics over fish and the ocean, measures necessary to publicize the local production for local consumption and seasonal production for seasonal consumption, how to think about and utilize fish fat, causes of decrease in consumption of marine products in Japan, characteristics of fish in Okinawa Prefecture, factors that prevent strict science-based total allowable catch (TAC) settings in Japan, understanding of successful cases of resource management in foreign countries in Japan, the importance of protecting coastal fisheries from large-scale fisheries, need to obtain the consent of fishermen in determining regulation methods and individual quota (IQ) for resource management as well as the measures implemented in foreign countries to gain an understanding of fishermen, implementation status of the research of fishery resource management in Japan and its budget, the reason why there are few large fishing boats in fishing industry in Japan, standards for the fair distribution of national TACs to every fisherman in Japan, impact of commercial whaling in our territorial waters and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) on the recovery of fishery resources, points to be noted in diplomatic negotiations over management and protection of fishery resources, Japan's future whaling policy including promotion of commercial whaling, problems in fishery resource management of fishery rights management by fisheries cooperatives, consistency between FAO's proposals stipulating the need for special consideration for small-scale and traditional fisheries and the abolition of fishery rights, the reason why Japan's whaling

only within 200 nautical miles, and the composition of the delegation for whaling negotiations.

a. Outline of Statement of Opinions by Voluntary Testifiers

(Omitted)

b. Main Points of Discussion

(Omitted)

(2) Management and Utilization of Submarine Resources and Maritime Renewable Energy and their Future Development (February 26, 2020)

Securing a stable supply of energy and mineral resources which is unaffected by the international situation is a major challenge facing Japan.

On the other hand, Japan lacks in energy and mineral resources on land, however it has been confirmed that various marine energy and mineral resources such as methane hydrate and seafloor polymetallic sulfides as well as oil and natural gas in its surrounding sea areas. Although the technologies necessary for these developments are still highly uncertain and difficult, it is required that the public and private sectors work together to systematically and steadily promote the technological development necessary to understand the endowment amount and status, production, and environmental impacts associated with it, and to take countermeasures.

Regarding fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal, and LNG, which form the core of energy resources and are highly dependent on foreign countries, Japan is required to continue to work on stable securement of fossil fuels based on expected increased demand for the fossil fuels mainly in emerging countries, while strategic measures for energy and environmental technology for decarbonization are required by facing the global challenge of reducing CO₂ emissions, which is a greenhouse gas.

Renewable energy, especially offshore wind power generation, which is an important energy source that contributes to both improvement of energy self-sufficiency rate and decarbonization, is expanding in Europe, while in Japan surrounded by sea on all sides since, attention must be paid to the introduction of offshore wind power generation since it has great potential in the future.

Based on the above recognition, the Committee listened to opinions of voluntary testifiers and discussed with them about the future prospective of development and utilization of marine mineral resources, global trends and Japan's security and new international resource strategy, and ocean renewal mainly on offshore wind power

generation.

The points of discussion included the following matters: the content of the policy boost necessary to continue the superiority of Japan's marine resource exploration technology, the possibility of methane hydrate in the future, current technique to develop submarine resources and the current status towards commercialization in Japan as well as possibility of Japan to become a resource-rich country, future target schedule related to Japan's submarine resources development, comparison of the sense of speed between Japan and China in submarine resource development, the ideal way of development considering the maritime environment conservation stipulated by the Basic Act on Ocean Policy, Japan's superiority and precautions against development of submarine resources considering the maritime environment, the metals required for the use of renewable energy, Japan's contribution to energy security in Asia as a whole, ways of cooperation between developed and emerging countries in energy use, points of new international resource strategy, future outlook for decarbonization and coal-fired power generation, the importance of efforts of Japan to improve food and energy self-sufficiency rate, ways Japan should be in the world and Asia and ways of Japan-China relations should be in the future, need for Japan to separate security from the economy, Japan's role to be played against COVID-19 in Asia, possibility that wind power generation can become major renewable energy in Japan, possibility and necessity Japan's wind power generation industry should regain its strength, effects on environment and challenges of offshore wind power generation, and cost of offshore wind power generation.

a. Outline of Statement of Opinions by Voluntary Testifiers

(Omitted)

b. Main Points of Discussion

(Omitted)

3. Efforts and Roles of Japan to lead the International Community as a Maritime Nation (June 3, 2020)

Strengthen the Foundation of Maritime Industry

In Japan, marine transportation that accounts for more than 90% of the trade volume and approximately 40% of domestic freight transportation is a basic transportation infrastructure for people's lives and economic activities. Therefore, the maritime industries such as shipbuilding and shipping are important to support it.

The shipbuilding industry, which is one of the maritime industries, contributes to the protection of people's lives and property at sea, the maintenance of maritime order, and the security of Japan through the stable supply of ships such as the Japan Coast Guard and the Self-Defense Forces. In addition, most of the shipbuilding industry in Japan has production bases in regional areas including Setouchi region, and the ship machinery industry, which supports the shipbuilding industry by manufacturing and supplying parts for ships such as engines, has a large share in the world, while, most of their products are produced domestically. Therefore, both industries form a broad-based industry that plays a central role in the regional economy and employment.

However, in recent years, a huge shipbuilding company was established by the merger of two companies in China and South Korea respectively, and as a result, its market share is more than one-third of the world. Therefore, the shipbuilding industry in Japan is facing a challenge. In March 2020, the capital and business alliance agreement and the joint venture company agreement were signed between Imabari Shipbuilding which is No.1 in the domestic industry and Japan Marine United (JMU) which is No.2. Therefore, the industry reorganization is rapidly coming to the surface. Furthermore, due to the recent epidemic of COVID-19, the new business negotiations for ships have stopped and there is concern that the impact will expand in the future. The decline of the maritime industry such as the shipbuilding and ship machinery industry in the future may lead to the

fluctuation of Japan's foundation as a maritime nation, therefore it is demanded that the appropriate measures should be taken to the current situation.

Based on the above recognition, the Committee listened to opinions of voluntary testifiers and discussed with them about the past, present and future of the maritime and shipbuilding industry, the current status and issues of the shipbuilding industry, and the ways of the shipbuilding industry in “Japan” as the maritime nation.

The points of discussion included the following matters: on-site capabilities of Japanese companies, architecture strategies, the possibility of alliances with overseas companies in the shipbuilding industry, the significance of domestic shipbuilding, ways of strengthening maritime clusters, differences in competitiveness with companies in South Korea and China, decrease in orders from Japanese shipowners to Japanese shipbuilding companies, prospects for shipbuilding market and utilization of foreign human resources after COVID-19, supports for shipbuilding industry, positioning of government-ordered ships, requests from the shipbuilding industry to the government, superiority of environmentally friendly ships created by Japanese companies, necessity of shortening useful life as a means to stimulate vessel demand, direction of productivity revolution in maritime industry, cooperation between major and middle shipbuilding industry, relationship between Maizuru City and shipbuilding industry, the problem that JMU will withdraw manufacturing a new ship from Maizuru City, and efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

a. Outline of Statement of Opinions by Voluntary Testifiers

(Omitted)

b. Main Points of Discussion

(Omitted)

4. Japan Living with the World through the Ocean (Exchange of Views among Committee Members) (June 3, 2020)

The main opinions expressed in the exchange of opinions among Committee members are as follows.

(Basic approach of research)

- In 2007, the Basic Act on Ocean Policy, which is one of the foundations of Japan's Ocean Policy, was enacted as a lawmaker-initiated legislation and the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy with the theme of the challenge of toward a new maritime nation was decided by Cabinet in 2018. In addition, it is necessary to consider for the research in the second year that the focus on the sea is becoming mainstream policy such as the United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).
- There have been many economic viewpoints in the Committee up to now, however it may be better to hold discussions more in line with diplomacy and security such as how to confront China's hegemony and marine expansion. I also would like you to discuss the importance of remote border islands, including how to protect the Senkaku Islands and the Northern Territories.
- It would be an important challenge for Japan to realize early human interaction including maritime matters in East Asia in the age of COVID-19 or after COVID-19, while not only logistics but interaction of people is required.

(Maritime security, rule of law and diplomacy)

- Recognizing the serious international environment surrounding Japan, it is necessary to follow the ways of maritime security and rule of law and diplomacy further.

- Japan relies on imports of fossil fuels which account for approximately 90% of its primary energy and whose resources are transported by shipping. Therefore, protecting safe navigation of ships is the same as protecting Japan's lifeline. It is important to secure multiple safe sea lanes in preparation for the closure of the Straits of Hormuz and other situations, and cooperation with the maritime industry and strengthening diplomacy are required.
- Mr. Yamada, a voluntary testifier, made a suggestion to conduct a research cooperation on the maritime environment in the Senkaku Islands and other sea areas where conflicts may occur. This suggestion is very important.
- Regarding the ocean management, it is necessary to make the policy implementation based on the rule of law and scientific knowledge as a principle and continually work on activities that penetrate such principle as a universal standard for the entire international community. Moreover, it is important to utilize a soft power such as observation and scientific technology which are Japan's strength.
- In Okinawa, people have told the Spirit of Bankoku Shinryo (Bridge of Nations) which derives from Ryukyu Kingdom when they plan to develop as a bridge in Asia through logistics and human interaction such as trade and tourism. Peace in the ocean is important for Japan, therefore it is necessary for Japan to collaborate with South Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines to envision diplomacy toward the United States and China in order to control the U.S.-China conflicts without intensifying it aiming for the maritime stability in Southeast Asia. At the same time, it is also important to maintain regular exchange of opinions on the maintenance of maritime order with China.

(Marine resources)

- It is necessary for Japan to tackle environmental problems while keeping the power of

the maritime nation Japan solid. Specifically, 1) Promotion of off-shore wind power based on the Act of Promoting Utilization of Sea Areas in Development of Power Generation Facilities Using Maritime Renewable Energy Resources, 2) excavation of submarine resources and expansion of businesses such as artificial culture of marine products, and 3) nationwide efforts to prevent marine pollution, including plastic waste. Japan should work on the United Nations, and hope the Committee would take (2) as a theme of Concept of Ocean Utilization and Development Including Securing of Marine Energy and Mineral Resources.

- Japan should aim for a sustainable marine industry as well as steadily promoting international negotiations on catch quotas. Therefore, it is required to seriously tackle the problem of resource management that does not function, and take effective measures based on scientific evidence. With the fall in demand in COVID-19 crisis as a chance, efforts should be made to restore resources.
- The EEZ of Japan is endowed with abundant submarine resources. Therefore, it is necessary for the national research institutes such as Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) and Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and the private sector to work together to steadily engage in R&D and resource exploration. Moreover, pushing is required continuously including concerns for the environment.
- In the midst the SDGs have been required to implement and the UN agencies have also adopted the declaration on the rights of peasants and small fisheries, how to protect coastal fisheries from large-scale fisheries that damage resources is an important issue.
- Fishermen of squid fishing boats operating at Yamato-tai, one of the best fishing grounds in the central part of the Sea of Japan, are at a loss as to what to do. Illegal fishing

operations from North Korea and China have not improved while rising seawater temperature caused by climate change has caused a poor catch, the situation that can be said to be a crisis for Japanese fisheries. It is time to work with countries facing the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan to realize “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean” by promoting fisheries that protect and nurture the resources of the sea and by protecting the environment and fighting with climate change.

(Whaling issues)

- There is concern over how the withdrawal from the IWC will affect multilateral rulemaking of the management of other fisheries resources such as tuna and saury, so whaling needs to continue to be researched.
- Withdrawal from the IWC was unavoidable, however Japan lost the legal basis for scientific research on whaling due to the withdrawal from the Convention. Scientific research whaling has great significance for sustainable use and fostering relationships of trust with foreign countries. Therefore, the Japan-Korea joint research in the Sea of Japan proposed by a voluntary testifier Mr. Komatsu may be worth noting.

(Maritime renewable energy)

- In order to ensure a stable power supply, it is necessary to politically support R&D such as offshore wind power generation, tidal power generation, and ocean thermal energy conversion, while paying attention to the maintenance of ecosystems and coexistence with stakeholders in the sea area. In this case, a long-term perspective that encourages cost reduction is essential.
- With regard to the floating offshore wind power generation in Goto City, Nagasaki Prefecture, we would like to make use of the opinions that it was important and effective for the citizens to participate by actually setting up a forum for discussion.

(Promotion of maritime industry)

- From the problem caused by COVID-19, we learned the necessity of maintaining and developing domestic production bases and technical improvement sites for production lines that are essential to the economy and human life. Therefore, I would like you to investigate related economic and industrial policies, based on the shipbuilding and shipping industries corresponds to that.
- As new themes, regarding the vessels that support maritime trade, I would like you to take up two issues “maintaining the domestic shipbuilding industry, sustainable growth and issues about its development” and “securing seafarers and issues in long-term voyages”.
- I felt that the shipbuilding industry, which contributes to the international community through products and brings employment to the region, is important, and it is important to create a new system in which large and medium-sized companies could exert their strengths in all Japan in order to recover from the difficult situation. In addition, I strongly felt that it is necessary to lead international public opinion in environmental regulations, and to raise the bottom of all maritime clusters such as terminal equipment in port cargo handling and the ship machinery industry.
- It is important that the politics shed light on the efforts of the shipbuilding industry, which is working together with the region to build a town with domestic production as the starting point, and that the government makes the necessary compensation to prevent collapse of the industry.

(Conservation of maritime environment)

- What is important is how Japan should improve the maritime environment in order to contribute to the development of marine science with the view that Japan will lead the

United Nations “Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”. Therefore, researches with high public interest such as plastic waste, climate change and biodiversity should be prioritized.

- Because the issue of the maritime environment is very important, I would like you to address it in the second year. Regarding the problem of plastic waste, it is necessary to devise and implement effective measures for generation control and recovery, including the problem of fishing nets and fishing equipment dumped in water in addition to typical waste such as plastic bottles.
- Since there were few environmental issues, I would like you to discuss plastic waste and sea level rising due to climate change based on specialized knowledge.
- Regarding the problem of environmental protection of the ocean, there are various issues including reduction of marine plastic waste, protection of marine rare species, and protection of marine red list species as designated species under the conservation law of species. Therefore, Japan should take an initiative in solving those issues.

(Rulemaking of the ocean)

- Japan needs to take the lead in developing an international order in line with Japan's values regarding national interests and marine conservation centering on international law. Therefore, I would like you to research rulemaking of the ocean.

(Arctic Ocean)

- The management and orderly utilization of the Arctic Ocean whose environment is changing due to climate change might be a challenge for the future.
- Aiming for continuous involvement in policy making regarding Arctic policy, Japan

should contribute to the observation and R&D which are the strength of Japan in order to show its presence as an observer country in the Arctic Council.

(Port policy)

- What kind of position will the ports in Japan occupy in Asia from now on is an important point of view. I also would like you to discuss the international container and bulk strategic ports.

- How to prevent COVID-19 in Japan is the challenge as people and goods move through the ocean. Therefore, considering the international container and bulk strategic port policy, strengthening the Business Continuity Plan for port management and quarantine system is important since the number of freighter traffic is increasing.

Afterword

The Committee started the substantial research of this term from February this year. While struggling to secure the research schedule due to the affects by the declaration of a state of emergency to respond to COVID-19, we conducted as many researches as possible and summarized this interim report.

In this report, discussions from various viewpoints developed during this period in the Committee are summarized. Those discussions include general issues of law of the Sea and Japan's Ocean policy, management and development as well as ways of utilization of marine resources such as marine products, minerals and energy, and role and challenges of Japan's maritime industry in achieving prosperity and leading the world as a maritime nation.

On the other hand, there are a wide variety of problems related to the ocean, and there are many problems remained that could not be discussed in the first year. It is also necessary to deepen the discussion on the issues raised in the first year while taking into account the opinions from different perspectives.

The challenges left include environmental conservation issues related to the ocean such as marine pollution caused by plastic wastes and ships and challenges in the shipping industry and human resource development that support the prosperity of the world economy including Japan. Problems related to the polar regions such as the Arctic Ocean, which includes a variety of factors regarding security, economy and environment that are complexly intertwined each other, could be a good case study in considering the ways of ocean governance.

In addition, among the challenges for research conducted in the first year, it is necessary to conduct a more diversified research on maritime security including the importance and limitations of the rule of law. It seems that fishery resource management and environmental conservation as well as the whaling issue which involves many points at issue such as respect for diverse cultures have not been discussed sufficiently.

In the opinions expressed by the members at the last research of the first year, interests were shown to those challenges. In the second year, based on this interim report as one of guidelines, it is expected to conduct a research of new problems in parallel with deepening the investigation of issues which the members shown its interest. For the final report of the third year, it is also expected to conduct a comprehensive research, while paying attention to the relevance of each issue.

Reference 1 Timeline of Deliberations

Diet session and date	Outline
<p>200th (Extraordinary session)</p> <p>October 4, 2019</p> <p>December 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Research Committee on International Economy and Foreign Affairs at a plenary meeting • Election of the Committee Chairman (TSURUHO Yosuke (LDP·VP)) • Election of Directors • Decision on this three-year term’s research theme (“Japan Living with the World through the Ocean”)
<p>201st (Ordinary session)</p> <p>February 5, 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing government explanation and conducting a question and answer session (“Japan's Ocean Policy” regarding the research theme of “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean”) • Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (same as above) <p>(Voluntary testifiers)</p> <p>YAMADA Yoshihiko</p> <p>Director (Advisor to the President), Shizuoka Campus, Tokai University</p> <p>Professor, School of Marine Science and Technology, Tokai University</p> <p>OKUWAKI Naoya</p> <p>Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo</p>

February 12 · Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Concept of Ocean Utilization and Development Including Securing of Marine Energy and Mineral Resources” (Management and Protection of Fishery Resources) regarding the research theme of “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

Sakana-kun

Honorary Doctorate, Visiting Associate Professor, Tokyo
University of Marine Science and Technology

KATANO Ayumu

Fisheries Journalist

KOMATSU Masayuki

Senior Fellow, the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research

February 26 · Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Concept of Ocean Utilization and Development Including Securing of Marine Energy and Mineral Resources”(Management and Utilization of Submarine Resources and Maritime Renewable Energy and their Future Development) regarding the research theme of “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean”)

(Voluntary testifiers)

URABE Tetsuro

Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo
Advisor, Japan Mining Engineering & Training Center

SHIRAISHI Takashi

Chancellor, Prefectural University of Kumamoto

	<p>ISHIDA Shigesuke Professor, Institute of Ocean Energy, Saga University</p> <p>June 3 • Hearing opinions of voluntary testifiers and conducting a question and answer session (“Efforts and Roles of Japan to lead the International Community as a Maritime Nation” (Strengthen the Foundation of Maritime Industry) regarding the research theme of “Japan Living with the World through the Ocean”) (Voluntary testifiers)</p> <p>FUJIMOTO Takahiro Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Faculty of Economics, the University of Tokyo Executive Director, Manufacturing Management Research Center, the University of Tokyo</p> <p>UEDA Takashi Vice Chairman, the Shipbuilders’ Association of Japan</p> <p>TATAMI Ryozo Mayor of Maizuru City</p> <p>• Exchange of views among Committee members (“Japan Living with the World through the Ocean”)</p>
<p>June 10</p>	<p>• Decision on the research report and its submission to the President of the House of Councillors</p> <p>• Decision to offer the report at a plenary meeting</p>

Reference 2

List of Committee Members

Chairman	TSURUHO Yosuke (LDP・VP)
Director	ONODA Kimi (LDP・VP)
Director	TSUGE Yoshifumi (LDP・VP)
Director	NINOYU Satoshi (LDP・VP)
Director	KOBAYASHI Masao (＊)
Director	NIIZUMA Hideki (KP)
Director	YANAGASE Hirofumi (JIP)
Director	ITO Gaku (JCP)
	ASAHI Kentaro (LDP・VP)
	INOGUCHI Kuniko (LDP・VP)
	KAWAI Anri (LDP・VP)
	NAKANISHI Kenji (LDP・VP)
	NAKANISHI Satoshi(LDP・VP)
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Note: LDP・VP: Liberal Democratic Party and Voice of The People
＊: The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and Democratic Party For
the People and Shin-Ryokufukai and Social Democratic Party
KP: Komeito
JIP: Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party)
JCP: Japanese Communist Party
OW: Okinawa Whirlwind

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