

Support Program for Regional Foreign Direct Investment in Japan

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Adopted by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan

1. Outline

Japan has actively promoted foreign direct investment (FDI) in Japan. Although the investment environment has steadily improved, and FDI in Japan has increased, investments have been concentrated in certain major metropolitan areas, such as Tokyo.

Regions throughout Japan possess unique companies with technical capabilities; distinctive industrial clusters; numerous regional resources, including agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and tourist resources; and outstanding labor forces. It is possible to generate new demand, improve productivity, and create quality employment opportunities by linking the strengths of each region to the sales channels, technology, human resources, and know-how of foreign companies.

In order to attract foreign companies effectively, it is important to ascertain the distinctive aspects of each region and possess a plan to draw out the region's potential as much as possible.

Therefore, the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan decided to launch the Support Program for Regional Foreign Direct Investment in Japan, recommend that local governments formulate a Plan to Attract Foreign Companies (hereinafter, "plan") that leverages their distinctive regional aspects. Working closely with other ministries and agencies, implementation of promotion of FDI based on the plan in that region is facilitated through the program. This will strongly advance regional vitalization through FDI.

2. Program

- (1) Initiated by the Japan External Trade Organization and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and in cooperation with related ministries and agencies that are members of the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan and that have "The Office of INVEST JAPAN" (hereinafter, "related ministries and agencies"), the program provides one-stop support to local governments formulating a plan based on their distinctive regional aspects and working to revitalize the region.
- (2) The program provides the following types of support.
 - Support for local governments' efforts to formulate a plan
 - Support for matching foreign companies to companies and local governments in a particular region

- Support for the effective use of measures implemented by related ministries and agencies that contribute to attracting foreign companies, etc.
 - Advising foreign companies and local governments on regulations and administrative procedures
- (3) Related ministries and agencies actively do the following.
- Provide foreign companies and local governments with information on support measures, regulations, and administrative procedures that the ministry or agency is responsible for
 - Handle inquiries and requests from and provide advice to foreign companies and local governments related to support measures, regulations, and administrative procedures that the ministry or agency is responsible for