

# Structural Reform of Local Economies

## Policies to Enhance Japan's Growth Potential

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Interview with Kazuhiko Toyama, Partner &amp; CEO, Industrial Growth Platform, Inc.

### Rise in Productivity Would Conquer Depopulation in Japan

By Japan SPOTLIGHT

A distinguished business reformer allays concerns about depopulation in the Japanese regions and offers views on enhancing labor productivity.

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Interview with Kazushi Saito, President and Owner of "Izumi No San", "Shonai Kome Kobo" and "Maister".

### Will Agriculture Be a Leading Industry in Japan Following Conclusion of TPP?

By Japan SPOTLIGHT

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By Japan SPOTLIGHT

A distributor of agricultural products for consumers offers another view of the diversified role of agriculture in local Japanese economies.

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By Japan SPOTLIGHT

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## Cover lead

Japan's local economies offer numerous good business opportunities. There are many business sectors, in particular tertiary sectors, in the Japanese regions that are currently suffering from extremely low productivity. But it would be easy to enhance productivity in these sectors with only a little effort, since most of them simply lack skillful business management. With the transfer of some human management resources from Tokyo to these local areas, these sectors would show a vastly improved business performance and enable local economies to achieve higher productivity and wealth.

Our March/April issue highlights the growth potential of local Japanese economies. Our lead article is an interview with Kazuhiko Toyama, a distinguished consultant who has helped many companies in their business reforms, which showcases

"labor productivity" as key to overcoming depopulation in the Japanese regions as well as in the country generally. We have selected some particular sectors with special weight in terms of enhancing the growth potential of local Japanese economies – agriculture, tourism, finance, and health care – and invited representatives of these promising sectors either for an interview or to write an article about their potential and the impediments that need to be overcome.

In addition, we introduce some examples of foreign subsidiaries that are making a significant contribution to local economies in Japan, highlighting how the internationalization of these regions has been improving their business performance.

Naoyuki Haraoka is executive managing director and editor-in-chief of Japan SPOTLIGHT.

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