# **Economics Focus**

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# Japan: riding the changing tide of global economic policy with an aggressive fiscal policy

- To expand private investment for growth, it is necessary to improve predictability. First of all, it is important for the government to commit to expanding the size of the economy in a sustainable manner.
- The trend in global economic policy is shifting from neoliberalism, which emphasises market principles, to a new approach that emphasises publicprivate partnerships for crisis management investment, growth investment and expanding demand to resolve economic and social issues.

Expanding private investment in growth requires greater predictability. First, a government commitment to sustainably expanding the economy is essential. Furthermore, the government must clarify the direction of multi-year budgetary measures and tax measures that promote investment, such as lump-sum depreciation of capital investment. Private investment in growth must not be stifled by tax increases or other measures. We expect the BoJ to implement appropriate monetary policy aimed at achieving both strong economic growth and price stability. In addition to economic security and defence, we also need to take an offensive approach by further strengthening profitable growth industries. It is problematic that the support budget for the content industry, a growth sector whose overseas sales exceed semiconductor exports, is currently around JPY20bn, less than the JPY120bn allocated by China and France. We must fully recognise the fierce competition for public-private partnerships in growth investment.

The global economic policy trend is shifting from neoliberalism, which emphasises market principles, to a new approach that emphasises public-private partnerships in crisis management investment, growth investment and demand expansion to address economic and social challenges. The government's economic policy would shift from quantitative growth driven by efficiency to value-added growth driven by the resolution of social and economic issues. The government is expected to ride this changing trend with aggressive fiscal policy. Preparing for future earthquakes and emergencies would be addressed by expanding future supply capacity, rather than securing funds through current austerity measures. If supply capacity expands through growth investment, the private sector would not be able to generate profits unless there is commensurate demand. The government would also provide support for households. Expanding investment driven by strong domestic demand would strengthen the international competitiveness of products, services and infrastructure that contribute to resolving shared global issues.

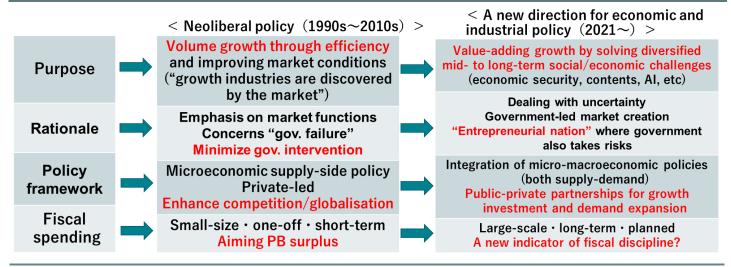


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Fig 1. A shift in economic policy based on global trends = "A new direction for economic and industrial policy" (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)



Source: METI, Crédit Agricole CIB

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