Abenomics Stage II

Motoshige Itoh
University of Tokyo

Stage II

(I) Reforms

Before Abe Cabinet, Japan had six prime ministers for six years.

(2) Transition from Stage 1 to Stage 2



Nominal GDP

Exchange rates

Expected inflation

Unemployment rate

Corporate profits

Stock prices

Tax revenue

Ist and 2nd Arrow heated up some parts of the economy. Question is whether consumption and investment can be heated up?

"Goemon-Buro"



- Historically low real interest rate
 - Real interest rate is now in a negative range;
 first time in the last 40 years.
- Asset reallocation of household sector?
 - Will 1700 trillion yen start moving?
- Use of abundant retained earnings
 - Cashing out of the savings and profits
 - Investment, dividends or wages.
 - Corporate governance reform

Growth strategy

- Demand Side and/or Supply Side?
 - The third arrow is "growth strategy that promotes private investment"
- Changing emphasis during the first two years
 - GPIF reform, corporate tax, promoting tourism.
 Deregulation in electricity
 - These reforms will have strong effects on demand side.
- Supply side reform issues: can they be achieved?
 - TPP
 - Labor market reform
 - Corporate governance

Fiscal consolidation

- Three aspects
 - Debt/GDP ration (from the past)
 - Continuing fiscal deficit (present issue)
 - Aging population (future threat)
- Strategy for the fiscal consolidation
 - How to cut budget deficit
 - Preparing for aging population: reform of social security
 - long-run path for lowing debt/GDP ratio