



The Weekly Observer

September 2-6

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Koizumi Announces Bid for LDP President

On Friday, **ex-Environment Minister Koizumi Shinjiro** — **de facto frontrunner** in the LDP presidential race — announced his candidacy emphasizing “**settlement** of debates of the past” toward a new Japan.

The son of **former Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro** pledged to achieve **three policies during his first year as leader** — political reform, regulatory reform without boundaries, and enhancing life’s options through measures like revising labor hour regulations.

His announcement came after **Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi Yoshimasa** and **LDP Secretary General Motegi Toshimitsu** announced their candidacies earlier this week.

With the filing period set to end on **September 12**, the Election Commission announced new campaign rules like a **ban on paid ads** and automated “**get out the vote**” calls.

White House Plans to Block U.S. Steel Acquisition

The *Financial Times* reported Thursday that the **Biden administration is set to block Nippon Steel’s acquisition of U.S. Steel**, with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) having already notified the company that the deal posed **national security concerns**.

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris said on Monday that U.S. Steel should **remain “American owned and American operated.”** Republican nominee **Donald Trump** similarly opposes the deal.

In response, Nippon Steel issued a statement on Wednesday stating that **core senior management and a majority of board members would be U.S. citizens** if the deal went through. It also said that the company had not received final results from CFIUS.

Questions remain as to whether the deal will go through after the presidential election in November.

Cabinet Approval



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-% (-)

State of the Economy

Current Earnings (FY 2024 Q1):
¥35.77 trillion (+13.2%)
Record-high & 6th month on the rise

Manufacturing sector led way with 13% growth due to weak yen

Human capital costs higher among SMEs (6.7%) than large firms (1.1%)

Real Wages (July):
+0.4%
2nd consecutive month on the rise as bonuses rose significantly

Real Household Consumption (July):
¥290,931 (+0.1%)
First increase in 3 months