



INAUGURATION OF THE ASO CABINET

On September 24, Taro Aso, Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party became the 92nd Prime Minister of Japan (the 59th person to assume the post). That evening, Prime Minister Aso formed a Cabinet characterized by the fact that the posts of Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Financial Services were given to a single person for the first time, and by the appointment of the youngest postwar cabinet minister, Ms. Yuko Obuchi, 34-years-old, as Minister of State for Social Affairs and Gender Equality.

At his first press conference, Prime Minister Aso said, “In particular, I have taken sternly to heart the fact that we are in the midst of a crisis encompassing the people’s anxiety about the economy, dissatisfaction about their daily lives, and distrust in politics. I consider that my mission is to make Japan a vibrant and strong nation.” He concluded his remarks to his ministers by saying, “First, proceed with policies focused on the people. Second, exercise effective command over the civil servants under your supervision. And third, ministers



should focus not on the interests of their ministries but on the national interest.”

On September 29, Prime Minister Aso delivered his first policy speech to both Houses of the Diet. On economic policy, he advocated rebuilding the Japanese economy in three phases: “reviving business activity” “fiscal reconstruction,” and “growth through reforms.” On peace of mind in people’s daily lives, he emphasized, among other matters, the need to ensure the correctness of pension entitlements, to consider revisions of the medical care system for



FACING:

Prime Minister Aso at his first press conference.

TOP & ABOVE:

Prime Minister Aso delivers a policy speech to the plenary session of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors at the 170th session of the Diet.

people aged 75 years and over, and to establish an Agency for Consumer Affairs that stands in the position of consumers and protects their interests.

In conclusion, he said, “What I ask of this House is for consultations on the policies of the ruling and opposition parties. Given the many challenges both at home and abroad, we would abdicate our responsibility to the nation if we were needlessly to fritter time away.”

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