

Trump 2.0 Kicked Off with Numerous Executive Orders

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On January 20, Donald Trump was officially inaugurated as the 47th president of the United States at a ceremony in Washington, kicking off his second administration, dubbed Trump 2.0. Following his first term (four years from January 2017) and the subsequent four-year Biden administration, he came back to the White House. Aged 78 years and 7 months, Trump became the oldest U.S. president in history to take the oath of office. In U.S. history, Trump is the second president to serve a second term after losing a reelection bid. The first was Grover Cleveland, who served his first term as the 22nd president, lost his reelection bid, and won his second term as the 24th president about 130 years ago.

For the next four years, Trump will lead the superpower United States, which has the world's largest economic and military power and exerts a strong influence on a wide range of areas from international politics and security to the global economy and technology. Its power and influence will shake not only the United States, but also the rest of the world, including Japan and other U.S. allies, its strategic competitors such as China and Russia, and the Global South. The impact of Trump 2.0 will be the most important point in the international situation over the next four years.

President Trump will relentlessly pursue the realization of the “Make America Great Again” slogan he has raised throughout presidential election campaigns. In doing so, he will stick to the basic concept of the “America First” principle. As an “outsider” who distances himself from the traditional political establishment, Trump will frequently come up with his own initiatives that are not bound by conventional wisdom. As was the case during the first Trump administration, he will strongly criticize and reverse previous Democratic administration policies symbolically. There will be many cases in which Trump will emphasize bilateral relations rather than internationalism or multilateral relations and exploit the U.S. power to exert pressure on foreign countries and win deals in favor of the United States. Basic Trump 2.0 policies are expected to reflect the abovementioned concepts including the MAGA slogan and the “America First” principle.

These points were emphasized by President Trump in his inaugural address on January 20. “The golden age of America begins right now,” he said. “Today, I will sign a series of historic executive orders. With these actions, we will begin the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense.” Many executive orders issued actually on the inauguration day can be interpreted as embodying the abovementioned basic policies. On the day, President Trump released more than 40 executive actions including 26 orders.

Let's check these executive orders. Regarding immigration as a priority issue, Trump issued executive orders on tighter border controls, the revision of the birthplace principle for U.S. citizenship, the realignment of the refugee admission program, and other measures. As for federal institutions and

systems, President Trump's executive orders call for creating the Department of Government Efficiency, for ending radical and wasteful DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) programs, and for revising federal employment hiring processes. He also signed an executive order to rescind 78 executive actions implemented by the previous Biden administration. Another executive order seeks to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. These executive orders clarified the basic Trump 2.0 stance on domestic and foreign policies. With regard to controversial tariffs subjected to global attention, Trump fell short of introducing new tariff measures on the inauguration day. However, he indicated that he was considering introducing a 25% tariff on Mexico and Canada and an additional 10% tariff on China from February.

Regarding energy and the environment, which is of great interest to me, Trump signed many executive actions demonstrating the basic Trump 2.0 stance. First of all, as was covered by many media outlets reporting on the first day of Trump 2.0, one of them seeks to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement again. As known well, the re-withdrawal followed the first withdrawal from the climate accord under Trump 1.0 and the comeback to the accord under the Biden administration. Trump has vowed to free the United States from international agreements considered unfair and undue for his country. The withdrawal from the Paris Agreement covers relevant U.S. financial commitments including those for developed countries' support worth \$300 billion for developing countries as agreed on the 29th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change last year.

Trump also issued an executive order "declaring a national energy emergency," which was also widely covered by the media. It pointed out that the capacities of supply chains are inadequate for energy, which is indispensable for the United States, resulting in serious emergencies from various perspectives such as cost, stability, and reliability. Attributing the situation to inadequate policies under the previous administration, the order calls for emergency measures. By declaring the emergency, the order requires relevant government agencies to obtain additional authority to enhance problem-solving efforts.

In addition to the abovementioned national energy emergency order, Trump issued an executive order titled "Unleashing American Energy" in order to free the United States' enormous energy supply potential from various constraints. The order seeks to identify and eliminate regulations and systems that impose constraints on the development of energy resources, to streamline the resources development approval process, and to reconsider greenhouse gas endangerment findings for the Environmental Protection Agency's power to regulate GHG emissions. It also calls for suspending and reassessing spending on Green New Deal projects promoted under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act enacted under the previous Biden administration, as well as lifting a moratorium imposed by the Biden administration on new liquefied natural gas export permits.

It is also noteworthy that an executive order was issued on "unleashing Alaska's extraordinary resource potential," singling out Alaska for resource development. It gives priority to promoting the development of extraordinary resource potential including natural gas in Alaska. The order highlights LNG development as a priority challenge and cites LNG sales to Pacific U.S. allies.

Trump also announced a memorandum on the temporary withdrawal of all areas on the outer continental shelf from offshore wind leasing and the suspension and review of the federal government's leasing and permitting practices for wind projects.

From the very first day of its inauguration, Trump 2.0 issued numerous executive actions

including orders to set out its policy directions. The impact of executive actions on energy and climate change will be a point of interest in the future. However, the actual impact will have to be scrutinized in the future. These executive actions are expected to directly or indirectly affect the entire international energy situation and Japan. They include measures that are important for anticipating future Japan-U.S. cooperation. The impact of Trump 2.0 policies will shake the world from now on.

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