## 4 Learn about "Inheritance Tax" and "Gift Tax"

## Inheritance Tax

Inheritance taxes imposed on properties which tax payers acquire by inheritance. Progressive tax rates which apply higher tax rates to higher asset values are used for the inheritance tax to **redistribute wealth**.

When the inheritance tax is calculated, a basic exemption is deducted from the value of inherited properties. The basic exemption was raised in line with substantial land price hikes during the bubble economy period and later kept unchanged despite continuous land price drops. Also tax rates were gradually lowered. As a result, the inheritance tax was imposed for only 4% of decedents, leading to an argument that the inheritance tax's function of redistributing wealth was declining.



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In response, the FY2013 tax reform expanded the inheritance taxation base by reducing the amount of basic exemption, and revised the inheritance tax rates to revive the inheritance tax's function of redistributing wealth and prevent the consolidation of disparity.





Gift tax is imposed on properties that tax payers acquire by gift. It **supplements the inheritance tax** by preventing people from attempting to take advantage of lifetime gifting to avoid theinheritance tax.



In line with aging population, ages for property transfers to children and grandchildren by inheritance are growing higher. If older **people's properties are transferred to their children and grandchildren earlier**, their effective utilization may help **revive the economic society**.

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In order to allow elderly people to transfer their properties to their children and grandchildren, the government has introduced an inheritance tax adjustment system under which gift receivers will pay a uniform 20% tax on gifts and make adjustments upon their late calculation of inheritance tax amounts (with optional calendar year taxation).



## 3.Inheritance Tax Adjustment System



\*Basic exemption will not be applied to gifts made on December 31, 2023 or earlier.

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