

## **2. Measures for the Aging Society by Field**

New major measures in FY 2006 by field are as follows:

### **(1) Working and income**

- Under the “Law to Partially Amend the Law Concerning Stabilization of Employment of Older Persons” (Law No. 103, 2004), employers are obligated to take measures such as introducing the continuous employment system and gradually extending the retirement age up to 65, in April 2006 or thereafter. In view of this, the government will provide employers with appropriate instructions and advice, as well as recommendations when needed.

- The government will raise awareness and disseminate information among employers about the “Law Concerning Special Measures for the Improvement of Setting of Working Hours” (Law No. 90, 1992) and the Guidelines for the Improvement of Setting of Working Hours (Public Notice No. 197 of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2006), both of which were enforced in April 2006. The government will also promote measures for facilitating workers and employers to take voluntary actions for improving the setting of working hours, such as promoting the use of annual paid vacations by workers, and reducing overtime work (done during hours exceeding working hours determined by each company).

### **(2) Health and welfare**

- Under the “Law to Partially Amend the Long-Term Care Insurance Law, Etc.” (Law No. 77, 2005), the government will change the content of disease prevention services, while establishing community-based services and other new services. The government will also introduce a system for renewing care manager qualifications and the eligibility of organizations as a governmentally designated entity, in order to ensure and improve the quality of welfare services.

### **(3) Learning and Social Participation**

- With the help of local adults, the government will develop school yards and classrooms into places where children may participate in activities safely and comfortably, with a view to providing all elementary and junior high school students with a variety of opportunities for extracurricular or weekend hands-on activities and exchange activities with local residents. In order to make these activities more community-based, the government will also provide people playing a core role in these activities with training programs and symposiums to support their mutual information exchanges and networking development.

#### **(4) Living Environment**

- In order to create a society where the elderly may enjoy a safe and comfortable traffic environment, the government will promote traffic safety education for senior leaders (senior instructors in charge of traffic safety education for the elderly) and traffic safety measures for elderly drivers based on the “Eighth Fundamental Traffic Safety Program” decided by the Traffic Safety Policy Council in March 2006.

- Elder Abuse Prevention and Caregiver Support Law (Law No. 124, 2005) has provided for measures to be taken mainly by prefectures and municipalities for the prevention of elderly abuse and support for caregivers of the elderly. In view of this, the government will formulate the practical guidelines that enable each local government and municipality to provide prompt services.

**(5) Promoting survey and research**

- In FY2006, the National Cancer Center will set up the “Information Center for Anti-cancer Measures” (tentative name), in order to create a cancer information network in cooperation with hospitals designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as cancer treatment centers, and to provide necessary information for citizens, patients, and medical workers.

## Overview of Budget Related to Measures for Aging Society by Field

Item	Primary budget FY 2005	Primary budget FY 2006	Year-to-year changes
<b>1. Working and income</b>	<b>6,435,451</b>	<b>6,825,485</b>	<b>390,034</b>
	<b>(37,746,547)</b>	<b>(38,902,023)</b>	<b>(1,155,476)</b>
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(1) Securing employment and working opportunities for the elderly	14,224	14,193	-31
	(222,790)	(197,781)	(-25,009)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(2) Helping working people exhibit their abilities throughout their lives	266	180	-87
	(124,275)	(130,950)	(6,675)
(3) Stable operation of the public pension system	6,417,031	6,807,316	390,285
	(37,391,058)	(38,564,852)	(1,173,794)
(4) Support of securing incomes for the elderly self-help	3,929	3,797	-133
	(8,425)	(8,440)	(15)
<b>2. Health and welfare</b>	<b>6,195,990</b>	<b>6,140,019</b>	<b>-55,970</b>
	<b>(473,581)</b>	<b>(381,715)</b>	<b>(-91,866)</b>
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(1) Comprehensive promotion of health improvement	124,399	77,666	-46,733
	(93)	(270)	(177)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(2) Steady implementation of the Long-term Care Insurance System	1,967,923	1,985,363	17,440
(3) Enhancing long-term care services	64,905	28,370	-36,534
	(11,065)	(10,736)	(-329)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(4) Innovation of the medical health system for the elderly	4,028,862	4,038,884	10,022
	(10,408)	(10,188)	(-221)
(5) Promoting comprehensive measures to support child care	9,901	9,736	-165
	(452,015)	(360,521)	(-91,494)
<b>3. Learning and social participation</b>	<b>26,593</b>	<b>21,573</b>	<b>-5,020</b>
(1) Creating lifelong learning systems	16,211	13,407	-2,804
(2) Promoting social participation	10,382	8,166	-2,217

(Unit: million yen)

<b>4. Living environment</b>	<b>12,785</b>	<b>13,162</b>	<b>377</b>
	<b>(510,692)</b>	<b>(528,831)</b>	<b>(18,139)</b>
	<—>	<—>	<—>
	<b>[21,050]</b>	<b>[10,048]</b>	<b>[-11,002]</b>
(1) Ensuring stable and comfortable housing	—	—	—
	(—)	(—)	(—)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(2) Comprehensive promotion of creating a city in consideration of "Universal Design"	12,253	12,665	412
	(495,952)	(512,141)	(16,189)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(3) Protecting the elderly from traffic accidents, crimes, and disasters	209	246	37
	(—)	(—)	(—)
(4) Developing a comfortable and energized living environment	324	252	-72
	(14,740)	(16,690)	(1,950)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
	<b>[21,050]</b>	<b>[10,048]</b>	<b>[-11,002]</b>
<b>5. Promoting survey and research</b>	<b>27,387</b>	<b>26,471</b>	<b>-915</b>
	<b>(19,609)</b>	<b>(18,656)</b>	<b>(-952)</b>
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(1) Promoting a variety of research activities	24,447	23,762	-685
	(11,040)	(10,374)	(-667)
	<—>	<—>	<—>
(2) Improving the basis of research activities	2,939	2,709	-230
	(8,568)	(8,283)	(-286)
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,698,206</b>	<b>13,026,711</b>	<b>328,505</b>
	<b>(38,750,428)</b>	<b>(39,831,224)</b>	<b>(1,080,796)</b>
	<—>	<—>	<—>
	<b>[21,050]</b>	<b>[10,048]</b>	<b>[-11,002]</b>

Note: 1. Budget figures in the table are classified as follows:

- Figures only: general account, ( ): special account, <>: treasury investment and loan, [ ]: loan limit
- The total budget in the government general account increased by 2.59% from the previous year, while the total budget in the special account increased by 2.79%.
- The items for which the budget amount and changes are not identified are shown as “-”.  
Therefore, the overall totals and subtotals by field are the aggregate sum of only those identified.