

**1****Measures for the Aging Society in the Fiscal Year 2008****1 Budget Related Measures for the Aging Society**

Measures for the aging society in the fields of Work and Income, Health and Welfare, Education and Social participation, Living Environment, Promotion of Surveys and Research etc. are to be implemented steadily.

The budget for the measures related to the aging society totals 14.1294 trillion yen in the general account budget for fiscal year 2008. Its division

according to each area is as follows: 7.6684 trillion yen for work and income, 6.4034 trillion yen for health and welfare, 24 billion yen for education and social participation, 12.4 billion yen for living environment, 21.2 billion yen for surveys and research promotion (Refer to the Overview According to Each Area of Budget Related to Measures for the Aging Society).

**2****Measures for the Aging Society according to Each Area**

New measures according to each area for fiscal year 2008 are as follows:

**1 Work and Income**

- Under the cooperation of the concerned authorities in the region, and with the help of employers' groups etc., targeting recruiting personnel from affiliated agencies and retired people are to be arranged in order to provide assistance regarding re-employment of the baby-boom generation elderly in the region, such as career consulting seminars, job interview meetings etc.
- Besides supporting a new project with the emphasis on areas like education, child-rearing, long-term care, and environment, which is presented by the Silver Human Resources Centers and local public authorities jointly, workshops for utilization of knowledge and experience of elderly people are to be held, and 'a senior workforce employment project' to introduce them to enterprises will be implemented.
- In order to prevent the outward flow of skills that must be kept in Japan, along with the utilization of latest skills and know-how (people retired from large enterprises, and people near the age of retirement) in small and medium-size enterprises and in regions, a trend of senior workforce (possessing latest knowledge) that can find sense of fulfillment and of purpose

in life will be developed by setting the trends like Trend 1: from large enterprises to small and medium-size enterprises, Trend 2: from big cities to rural areas, Trend 3: from foreign countries to home and by changing the stage of their activities.

- A social trend aiming at realization of work-life balance is to be promoted, by pushing ahead the activities specified for every region in work-life balance promotion meetings conducted in every prefecture, along with selecting the enterprises that can represent Japan with a power of social influence, supporting the activities for the realization of work-life balance based on the action plans created by the concerned enterprises themselves and making the actual results of those activities known to everyone.
- Subsidies will be provided in order to support groups of employers and owners of small and medium-size enterprises focusing on equal treatment of part-time workers, along with making efforts for steady enforcement of the Act for Partial Revision of the Act for Improvement etc. of Employment Management for Short-term Workers (Act No 72 of 2007) that is to be enforced from April 2008.
- For the so-called "problem of pension registration," continuous and steady support will be provided by performing activities like clarification and integration of non-integrated records, along with sending 'Pension special mail' to all recipients and subscribers.

## 2 Health and Welfare

- With regard to the 'Publication of a long-term care service information' system, a schedule for adding sequentially prepared services to 12 already-published services such as home help service, nursing care welfare institution service, and 18 services like dementia-related nursing care, home help service for preventive nursing care, etc., were just published in fiscal year 2008.
- According to the Act for the Partial Revision of the Health Insurance Act etc' (hereafter called the Revised Act for the Health Insurance Act) enacted in June 2006, an independent medical care system called the Medical Aid System for the Elderly is to be established for people of 75 years old or over in April 2008. Furthermore, a financial adjustment system is to be established for people between the ages of 65 and 74 in order to rectify the fiscal year imbalance in financial burden between national health insurance and employee's health insurance. 1. freezing medical expenses (from 10% to 20%) for the people between the ages of 70 and 74 until March 2009, 2. freezing premium payments for people who have newly started bearing the cost of insurance (those dependent on employee health insurance) until September 2008 and reducing it by 90% from October 2008 to March 2009.
- Activities, such as having the insured person undergo health checkups and health guidance arranged for the subscribers 40 years old or above focusing on life-style related diseases including diabetes, along with taking countermeasures to life-style related diseases, correction of long-term hospitalization and systematic focusing on mid-to long-term medical treatment costs, will be strengthened on the prefectural and national levels.

## 3 Education and Social Participation

- In recent years, as it is difficult to obtain a place to work in the region due to unavailability of information or of opportunities even though they are willing to participate in social activities, a Project for Measures to Support Healthy

Elderly People was established to help the elderly realize their potential and create an environment in which they can live vigorously and with a sense of purpose in life.

- And 'Education supporter' system will be introduced on a trial basis, in accordance with the standard model indicated by the government to enable elderly people and people of the baby-boom generation to utilize experience which they developed so far through their career and learning at schools and their communities.
- Voluntary activities of each broadcasting station will be promoted by providing help for the production of programs with subtitles, analysis programs etc. aiming at the realization of the guidelines given by the government targeting spread of broadcasting with subtitles and anapysis programs from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2017.

## 4 Living environment

- A project to create a safe living space, attempting to stabilize elderly people's regional residences will be implemented by promoting the provision of rental housing to elderly people, along with improving the foundations of long-term care services by attracting welfare facilities to existing empty land and apartments, left empty due to reconstruction in the areas such as rapidly aging urban large scale housing estates.
- Barrier-free urban parks will be promoted by using the 'Maintenance Guidelines to Facilitate Movement in Urban Areas Parks' and the Project for Providing Urgent Support for Barrier-free Urban Parks, established in fiscal year 2008.

## 5 Promotion of Surveys and Research

- Surveys and research will be conducted to promote environmental improvement, which will enable everyone including elderly people to use ICT (Information & Communications Technology).

## Overview of Budget Related to Measures for the Aging Society, Classified by Area

Item	Initial Budget Amount FY 2006	Initial Budget Amount FY 2007	Proposal Budget Amount FY 2008	Year-on-year changes	Final accounts of FY 2006
<b>1 Working and Income</b>	Million Yen	Million Yen	Million Yen	Million Yen	Million Yen
(1) Securing employment and work opportunities for the elderly	6,826,012 ( 38,901,423) « — »	7,229,431 ( 40,404,550) « — »	7,668,419 ( 41,616,752) « — »	438,988 ( 1,212,202) « — »	6,817,763 ( 37,818,988) « — »
(2) Exercising abilities throughout the worker's career	14,720 ( 197,181) « — »	14,547 ( 164,837) « — »	15,984 ( 168,129) « — »	1,437 ( 3,292) « — »	14,221 ( 128,326) « — »
(3) Stable control of the public pension system	180 ( 130,950)	464 ( 154,351)	498 ( 167,796)	34 ( 13,445)	120 ( 98,362)
(4) Support for securing the elderly income through self help	6,807,316 ( 38,564,852)	7,210,758 ( 40,076,873)	7,648,418 ( 41,272,743)	437,660 ( 1,195,870)	6,799,625 ( 37,585,125)
<b>2 Health and Welfare</b>	6,140,019 ( 381,878) « — »	6,354,112 ( 484,329) « — »	6,403,484 ( 499,221) « — »	49,372 ( 14,892) « — »	6,212,641 ( 342,796) « — »
(1) Comprehensive promotion of health improvement	77,666 ( 270)	77,596 ( 2,370)	29,743 ( 2,160)	△ 47,853 (△ 210)	52,808 ( 270)
(2) Steady implementation of the Long-term Care Insurance System	1,985,363	2,022,258	1,987,712	△ 34,546	1,915,957
(3) Enhancing Long-term Care services	28,370 ( 10,736) « — »	23,113 ( 6,649) « — »	44,752 ( 5,899) « — »	21,639 (△ 750) « — »	18,451 ( 0) « — »
(4) Reformation of medical aid system for the elderly	4,038,884 ( 10,188)	4,220,992 ( 12,947)	4,332,693 ( 19,754)	111,701 ( 6,807)	4,217,706 ( 9,527)
(5) Promoting comprehensive measures to support child-care	9,736 ( 360,684)	10,154 ( 462,363)	8,584 ( 471,408)	△ 1,570 ( 9,045)	7,719 ( 332,999)
<b>3 Learning and Social Participation</b>	21,572	20,515	24,042	3,527	20,604
(1) Creating lifelong learning systems	13,407	12,707	12,222	△ 485	12,951
(2) Promoting social participation	8,164	7,808	11,820	4,012	7,653

Item	Initial Budget Amount FY 2006	Initial Budget Amount FY 2007	Proposed Budget Amount FY 2008	Year-on-year changes	Final accounts of FY 2006
<b>4 Living Environment</b>	Million Yen ( 12,462) 『 528,920』 [ -] 48	Million Yen ( 12,514) 『 533,992』 [ -] 30	Million Yen ( 12,353) 『 477,846』 [ -] 30	Million Yen (△ 162) 『△ 56,147』 [ -] 0	Million Yen ( 11,338) 『 3,164』 [ -] 18
(1) Ensuring stable and comfortable housing	— ( -) 『 -』	— ( -) 『 -』	— ( -) 『 -』	— ( -) 『 -』	— ( -) 『 -』
(2) Comprehensive promotion of a town in consideration of "Universal Design"	11,959 ( 512,141) 『 -』	12,028 ( 515,242) 『 -』	11,908 ( 475,744) 『 -』	△ 119 (△ 39,498) 『 -』	10,914 ( -) 『 -』
(3) Protecting the elderly from traffic accidents, crimes, and disasters	252 ( -) 『 -』	246 ( -) 『 -』	196 ( -) 『 -』	△ 50 ( -) 『 -』	179 ( -) 『 -』
(4) Developing a comfortable and vigorous living environment	250 ( 16,779) 『 -』 [ 48]	241 ( 18,750) 『 -』 [ 30]	249 ( 2,102) 『 -』 [ 30]	7 (△ 16,649) 『 -』 [ 0]	245 ( 3,164) 『 -』 [ 18]
<b>5 Promotion of Survey and Research</b>	24,562 ( 18,656)	21,663 ( 18,561)	21,162 ( 18,366)	△ 501 (△ 194)	21,549 ( 2,611)
(1) Promoting a variety of survey and research activities	22,854 ( 10,374)	19,820 ( 10,014)	19,322 ( 10,180)	△ 498 ( -) 166	19,933 ( 2,611)
(2) Improving the basis of survey and research activities	1,708 ( 8,283)	1,844 ( 8,547)	1,841 ( 8,186)	3 (△ 360)	1,616 ( -)
Total	13,024,626 ( 39,830,876) 『 -』 [ 48]	13,638,237 ( 41,441,433) 『 -』 [ 30]	14,129,461 ( 42,612,185) 『 -』 [ 30]	491,224 ( 1,170,753) 『 -』 [ 0]	13,083,894 ( 38,167,559) 『 -』 [ 18]

(Note 1) This budget is in compliance with important tasks from *Outline of the aging society measures* Approved in the Cabinet meeting on 28th December, 2001), organized into general accounts and special accounts.

(Note 2) The total budget in the government general account increased by 3.6% from the previous year, while the total budget in the special account increased by 2.83 %.

(Note 3) The budget amount for the FY 2006 amounts to 52,232,105 million yen excluding the projects for which calculation of final accounts is difficult as they are enforced in integration with other expenses.

(Note 4) Records with figures only indicate general account; ( ): special account; 『』 fiscal investments and loans; [ ] loan limit

(Note 5) The items for which the aging society budget cannot be specially identified are shown as "-".