

Measures for the Aging Society in the Fiscal Year 2009

Section 1 Measures for the Aging Society in the Fiscal Year 2009

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 17.2547 trillion yen in the general account budget for fiscal year 2009. Its division according to each area is as follows: 10.3194 trillion yen for work and income, 6.8097 trillion yen for health and welfare, 16.4 billion yen for education and social participation, 85.3 billion yen for living environment, 23.9 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 Promoting Measures for the Aging Society

New measures according to each area for fiscal year 2009 are as follows:

(1) Work and income

- A grant system for model corporations employing elderly people has been established and business owners provided with assistance who have made exemplary efforts to develop new work areas where it is possible to work until 70 years old, improve treatment, and actively utilize the elderly.
- Regarding the share of tax revenues in the basic pension efforts are being made toward creating a sustainable pension system by attempting to maintain a long-term balance between pension payments and the premium burden, and toward causing the “Bill to Amend Part of the Act etc to Amend Part of the National Pension Act etc” to be early approved for realizing that from fiscal 2009 with the share of tax revenue in the basic pension being 1/2, from the point of view of aiming at securing the confidence of citizens in the pension system by guaranteeing the future payment level (50% of after-tax income of the current generation).
- Efforts are being made toward early approval of the “Bill to Amend Part of Defined Contribution Pension Act etc Aiming at Improving Corporate Pension Schemes etc” and toward propagating the Employee Pension Fund, Defined-Benefit Corporate Pension and Defined Contribution Pension in order that citizens can have income security in their old age in a more stable and fuller fashion.

(2) Health and welfare

- Since an evil and systematic unjust case was caused by the part of broad-area long-term care service businesses, and in order to prevent such cases from taking place and to attempt to adjust the management of long-term care businesses, the “Act to Amend Part of Long-term Care Insurance Act and Act on Social Welfare Service for Elderly” (Act No. 42 of 2008), which reviews the current status of regulations for long-term care businesses, was established in May 2008 to be enforced in May 2009.
- In fiscal 2009, based on the report from “The Urgent Project for Improving the Quality of Medical Treatment and of Life with Dementia” in July 2008, new actions needed to drive following approaches are to be planned: 1. Assessment concerning dementia in our country, 2. Accelerating research and development, 3. Promoting early diagnosis and providing proper treatment, 4. Spreading appropriate care and supporting patients and their families, 5. Measures against young onset dementia.
- In fiscal 2009, and in order that one-person households and so forth, including elderly people, can live in regions with a sense of security, the Project for Creating a Reliable Life, where support is provided in monitor activities etc, will be established.
- In fiscal 2009 also, steady efforts shall be made toward firmly establishing a longevity medical system (Medical Care System for Latter-stage Elderly Persons). In addition, it shall be performed in succession even in fiscal 2009 in cooperation with the Wide Area Union of Medical Care for Latter-Stage Elderly Persons, cities, towns and villages, to inform elderly people of the content, targets, and corrective measures in the system, suspend the increase from 10% to 20% in percentage of medical fees to be paid by persons aged 70 to 74, and to reduce by 90% the amount per capita of the insurance premium of dependents of employee insurance.

(3) Education and social participation

- In fiscal 2009, and in order that elderly people themselves can contribute to creating reliable and hopeful regions, training shall be performed of “Promoters of Elderly Regional Activities (Community Work Coordinators)” and support projects also will be established for training “Supporters assisting living (long-term care)”, who will become the persons responsible for new resident participation services and so forth.
- Voluntary activities by each broadcasting station are to be promoted by providing assistance toward the expense of producing programs with subtitles and narrations etc. aiming at the realization of the guideline with the contents of setting subtitled and narrated broadcasting dissemination targets from fiscal 2008 to fiscal 2017.

(4) Living environments

- In January 2009 a bill to amend a part of the Act on Securement of Stable Supply of Elderly Persons' Housing shall be presented to the Diet, and laws within the jurisdiction of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism changed into jointly administered laws with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and basic policies established by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare in a concerted action. In addition, plans for securing the safety of elderly housing shall be able to be established by prefectures. The abovementioned measures will promote the provision of rental housing for the elderly, where living assistance and long-term care services can be provided, and more appropriate housing corresponding to elderly needs made available.
- In the budget of fiscal 2009 the decision was made that projects for urgently promoting stabilization of elderly housing shall be established and support provided by expanding subsidies for regional housing. Furthermore, when urban re-development projects collectively improve social welfare facilities and so forth in order to appropriately place social welfare facilities used by elderly people in easy-to-access places such as downtown area, additions shall be made to the assistance.
- As a measure to help elderly drivers to continue driving safely, the Act to Amend Part of the Road Traffic Act (Act No. 90 of 2007) will be enacted in June 2009, which provides that persons aged 75 or older as of the due date of renewal of driver's licenses will be obliged to take the Cognitive Impairment Screening Test for Senior Drivers within 6 months before the due date of the renewal period of their driver's licenses, and thus it has to be ensured that the test shall be smoothly implemented and efforts made toward improvement of the safety driving course for elderly drivers which is based on the results of the test.

(5) Promotion of investigations, research and so forth

- Regarding robots useful in supporting care workers, because their frequency of contact with people is high, more safety is required of them, and hence promotion shall be performed in developing safety technology for human beings and proof tests. In addition, toward realizing robot systems capable of communication support for the elderly, development of factor technology shall be promoted.

3 Efforts in “Measures for Economic Crisis”

In the “Global Financial Crisis” that is getting more serious and the greatest post-war “Global Simultaneous Depression”, and in order to overcome the “economic crises” Japan faces, “Measures against Economic Crises” were created in April 2009, and includes policies for realizing “A sense of safety and vitality” by citizens, such as in: (1) Policies related to “Health and Child Care” that utilizes the progress of aging in expanding domestic demand and creating employment.

The policies include acceleration of new technology developments, such as the restoration of regional medical care and medicine development, and strengthening long-term care functions, such as improving care worker treatment and long-term care bases. (2) Strengthening systems toward solving pension record problems and securing stable management of elderly medical care.

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Items	Initial Budget Amount FY 2007	Initial Budget Amount FY 2008	Proposal Budget Amount FY 2008	Year-on-year changes	Final accounts of FY 2007
	million yen	million yen	million yen	million yen	million yen
1 Work and income	7,229,442	7,668,419	10,319,429	2,651,010	7,225,567
	(40418562)	(41616752)	(42921695)	(1304943)	(38747157)
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... .. employment and work opportunities for the elderly	14,557	15,984	16,961	977	13,944
	(164837)	(168129)	(217342)	(49213)	(128208)
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(2) Exercising abilities throughout the worker' s	464	498	476	△ 22	369
	(154351)	(167796)	(170960)	(3164)	(123135)
(3) Stable control of the public pension system	7,210,758	7,648,418	10,298,722	2,650,304	7,207,591
	(40090885)	(41272743)	(42525141)	(1252398)	(38488453)
(4) Support for securing the elderly income through self help	3,662	3,519	3,270	△ 249	3,662
	(8490)	(8085)	(8253)	(167)	(7360)
2 Health and welfare	6,354,112	6,403,484	6,809,714	406,230	6,378,895
	(484329)	(499221)	(506418)	(7197)	(442868)
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(1) Comprehensive promotion of health improvement	77,596	29,743	28,645	△ 1,098	101,461
	(2370)	(2160)	(0)	(△ 2,160)	(2370)
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... .. implementation of the Long-term Care Insurance System	2,020,278	1,987,712	2,049,428	61,716	1,898,863
(3) Enhancing Long- term Care services	25,093	44,752	43,885	△ 867	19,885
	(6649)	(5899)	(18167)	(12268)	(31)
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(4) Reformation of medical aid system for the elderly	4,220,992	4,332,693	4,678,180	345,487	4,350,243
	(12947)	(19754)	(19001)	(△ 752)	(12283)
(5) Promoting comprehensive measures to support child-care	10,154	8,584	9,576	992	8,443
	(462,363)	(471,408)	(469,250)	(△ 2,158)	(428,184)
3 Learning and Social Participation	19,541	24,042	16,361	△ 7,681	14,945
(1) Creating lifelong learning systems	11,734	12,222	12,210	△ 12	11,520
(2) Promoting social participation	7,807	11,820	4,151	△ 7,669	3,425

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Items	Initial Budget Amount FY 2007	Initial Budget Amount FY 2008	Proposal Budget Amount FY 2008	Year-on-year changes	Final accounts of FY 2007
	million yen	million yen	million yen	million yen	million yen
4 Living environments	3,942	12,353	85,291	72,938	11,954
	(163)	(477,846)	(1,643)	(△ 476,203)	(174)
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	[40]	[30]	[0]	[△ 30]	[1]
(1) Ensuring stable and comfortable housing	—	—	70,170	—	—
	(—)	(—)	(0)	(—)	(—)
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promotion of a town in consideration of "Universal Design"	3,476	11,908	11,598	△ 310	11,592
	(0)	(475,744)	(0)	(△ 475,744)	(0)
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elderly from traffic accidents, crimes, and disasters	225	196	214	18	121
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
(4) Developing a comfortable and vigorous living environment	241	249	3,308	3,059	241
	(163)	(2,102)	(1,643)	(△ 459)	(174)
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	[40]	[30]	[0]	[△ 30]	[1]
5 Promoting investigations and research	21,663	21,162	23,864	2,702	21,322
	(11,248)	(18,366)	(11,433)	(△ 6,933)	(2,701)
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(1) Promoting a variety of survey and research activities	19,820	19,322	22,471	3,149	19,565
	(2,701)	(10,180)	(3,586)	(△ 6,595)	(2,701)
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(2) Improving bases of investigations, research and so forth	1,844	1,841	1,392	△ 449	1,757
	(8,547)	(8,186)	(7,847)	(△ 339)	(0)
Total	13,628,700	14,129,461	17,254,659	3,125,198	13,652,683
	(40,914,302)	(42,612,185)	(43,441,189)	(829,004)	(39,192,900)
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	[40]	[30]	[0]	[△ 30]	[1]

(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) In the initial budget for measures aging society of FY 2007, 9,537 million yen of general account and 527,131 million yen of special account cannot be specified as expenses, so they are not added up as number outside of parentheses in the table shown above.

(Note 3) Records with figures only indicate general account; (): special account; 《 》: fiscal investments and loans; []: loan limit

(Note 4) The items for which the aging society budget cannot be specially identified are shown as "—".

(Note 5) The budget amount for the FY 2007 excluding the projects for which calculation of final accounts is difficult as they are enforced in integration with other expenses amounts to 13,628,237 million yen for general accounts and 40,863,460 million for special accounts.