

1 Main Law Enactments and Amendments

With regards to aged society measures promoted in 2009, the movement of primary law enactments and amendments is given below.

(1) Establishment of a “law that partially amend other laws that amend a portion of the National Pension Act” (2009, Bill #62) (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

The long-term liabilities and benefits of the annuity system were balanced, and along with making the annuity system durable, the future benefits level (50% of the after-tax income of working generations) was secured. From the viewpoint of securing confidence towards a national annuity system, and in order to achieve the ½ basic state pension liability proportion from 2009, the “law that partially amends other laws that amend a portion of the National Pension Act” was brought forth in the 171st Diet meeting and was established in June the same year.

Based on this, from fiscal year 2009 to 2010, provisional funds were compensated by provision towards the general account from the FILP Special Account, and in addition to setting the basic state pension liability proportion to ½, this proportion was made permanent on top of securing required stable funding based on the “Radical Tax System Reformation”. Additionally, in case the year for provisionally making the liability proportion permanent was moved past fiscal year 2012, the proportion would be made ½ in that period until then based on taking measures with temporary legislation and public finance.

(2) Enforcement of the Act to Amend Part of the Road Traffic Act (Act No.90 of 2007)(National Police Agency)

The Act to Amend Part of the Road Traffic Act was enforced on June 2009, which provides that persons aged 75 or older as of the due date of renewal of their driver's license are 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 license.

(3) Approval of the Act to Amend Part of the Road Traffic Act (Act No.21 of 2009)(National Police Agency)

In order to support parking based on elderly drivers whose driving may be affected by a lowered physical functioning, the Act to Amend Part of the Road Traffic Act (Act No.21 of 2009), which describes the new construction of a special parking area system for elderly drivers who are able to park and stop as long as they display in their normal cars a special parking emblem issued by the Prefectural Public Safety Commission, was approved in April 2009 and enforced on April 2010.

(4) Approval and execution of a "law that partially amends Act on Securement of Stable Supply of Elderly Persons' Housing"(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

In order to further promote the securement of stable supply of elderly persons' housing, a "law that partially amends Act on Securement of Stable Supply of Elderly Persons' Housing" (Act No.38 of 2009), which aims to expand basic policies, formulate plans relating to securement of stable supply of elderly persons' housing by prefectural governor, and take measures to facilitate the supply of high-quality apartments (combined with elderly living support facilities) for elderly persons, was established in May 2009 and put into partial effect that same year in August.

(5) Amendment of Act on the Welfare of Workers Who Take Care of Children or Other Family Members Including Child Care and Family Care Leave (1991, Bill #76) (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

In order to promote support work-family life balance, the Child-Care and Family-Care Leave Law was amended in June 2009, which included the establishment of a short-term leave system for nursing.

2 Main Initiatives

○Correspondence towards the problem of low or no pension (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

Corresponding to the problem of low or no pension is an extremely important issue, and in December 2009, the pension eligibility period was recorded as not being met. However, approximately 500,000 subscribers above the age of 63 with the possibility of being connected to receiving pension based on voluntary enrollment were targeted, and apart from sending notices urging confirmation of enrollment period, measures were taken to send notices to urge application for those who weren't applying regardless of whether or not the pension eligibility period on record was met or not.

Furthermore, in the "bill that partially amends the National Pension Act for the purpose of supporting the security of income in old age based on the National Pension Plan and private pension plans", measures such as extending the national pension insurance payment period from 2 to 10 years by making insurance cost payments easier are being carried out from the viewpoint of preventing low or no pension in the future.

○Correspondence towards the inauguration of the Japanese Pension Service and pension record problem

In January 2010, the Social Insurance Agency was abolished and the Japan Pension Service was established as a new non-civil servant type public corporation.

Based on this, the country bears fiscal and management responsibility regarding public pension through direct supervision by means of a sequence of business operations in which the Japan Pension Service receives commission of jurisdiction or clerical work from the cabinet minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare.

With regards to the pension record problem, the Japan Pension Service and cabinet minister of Health, Labour and Welfare are working closely together, and instructions for involving such correspondence as an issue of primary importance for some time has been carried out in the medium term objectives based on the Japan Pension Service Act.

○Establishment of an "investigative commission concerning the new pension system" (Cabinet Secretariat)

In March 2010, a discussion was started regarding the pension system's radical reformation, and in preparation for building a new system, and May has been made the goal for bringing together basic general

rules.

○Support of the Silver Human Resource Center (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

In accordance with the employment needs of elderly people, the Silver Human Resources Center Project is being promoted to provide temporary/short-term and easy employment opportunities rooted in local communities (As of March 2009, the number of Silver Human Resource Centers was 1,329, and there were approximately 760,000 members).

Furthermore, in addition to supporting project proposals and the collaboration of municipalities and Silver Human Resource Center projects that place emphasis on "education, child-rearing, care, and environment", senior employment support program projects are being implemented that carry out workshops to capitalize on the knowledge and experiences of elderly people, as well as business matching.

○Improvement of treatment for the staffing of care workers (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

With regards to nursing care services in recent years, the turnover rate of care workers is high and staffing is difficult. In consideration of the approval of a "law concerning the improvement of treatment for care workers for the purpose of staffing care workers" (2008, Bill #44) in the 169th Diet session, +3% care compensation reform was implemented in April 2009. Furthermore, in the 2009 primary supplementary budget, improved treatment for care workers, such as establishing a care worker treatment improvement subsidy equivalent to a wage increase of ¥150,000 on average per month for one care worker (full-time equivalent), was planned.

○Urgent establishment of long-term care bases, etc (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

The adjustment amount, which included Intensive Care Homes for the Elderly, Long-Term Care Health Facilities, group homes for elderly adults with dementia, etc. already taken into account in the fourth quarter plan in each municipality, was approximately 120,000 people. Moreover, as urgent establishment of long-term care bases, etc. in the 2009 primary supplementary budget, a temporary special fund for urgent establishment of long-term care bases, etc. was established (set in each Municipality). Then 3-year improvement of aid is being carried out in order to promote maintenance and add

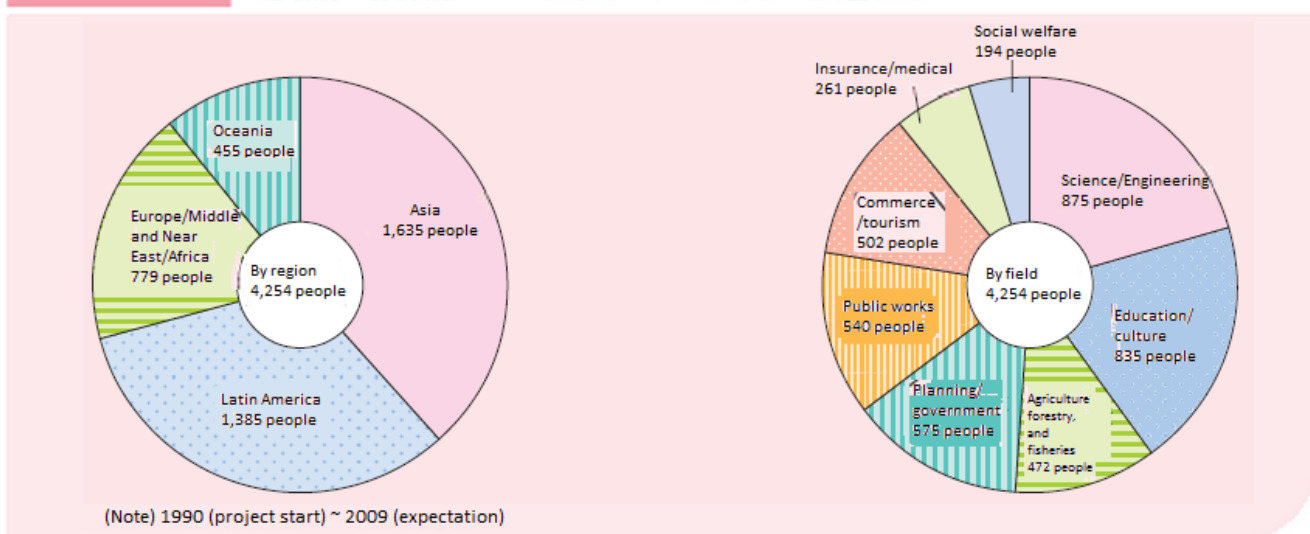
another approximate 40,000 people toward the goal of a total of 160,000 people in the three years until 2011.

○Elimination of the old-old medical system and discussion of a new system (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)

With regards to the old-old medical system, it was abolished taking into consideration the view points of citizens regarding the system. In order to discuss the specific role of the new system after disbanding the old system, the “Elderly Medical System Reformation Meeting” of relevant group representatives, elderly representatives

and academic experts was held in November 2009 based on the presidency of the Health, Labour, and Welfare cabinet minister. In the meeting, as basic points of view in discussion, 6 fundamental rules, including “a system shall be made to eliminate the problem of sorting with ages of the old-old medical system”, “unfairness shall be avoided, such as suddenly increasing insurance premiums for elderly people”, and “reconsideration shall be given in connection to the widening of municipal health insurance”, were presented and discussion is progressing based on these principles

Chart 2-3-18 Number of senior volunteer dispatch workers by region and field



○Implementation of Senior Volunteer Program (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Senior Volunteer Program have been implemented continuously through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which are allowing middle-aged persons possessing a volunteering spirit, abundant knowledge, and experience coupled with a desire to contribute to the social and economic expansion of developing countries to be active on-site in developing countries in part as overseas technical cooperation.

○Promotion of residence fire prevention measures (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

In order to greatly cut down on casualties from residential fires that are increasing primarily with elderly people, the “promotion of death occurrence prevention measures placing importance on safety measures and grasping elderly people in need of assistance “at the time of a disaster” is made an important item through the nationwide disaster prevention exercises in the spring and fall. In addition, regions were unified and comprehensive residential fire prevention measures were promoted including facilitating the proliferation of the early establishment

of residential fire alarms.

Taking into consideration the elderly home calamity that occurred in Shibukawa, Chiba in March 2009, and in relation to nationwide nursing home admission including unregistered admission-paid elderly homes, an emergency investigation was carried out to appeal for the thoroughness of fire prevention measures and cooperate with the welfare department and construction department. The results of the investigation were plans for a follow-up investigation and thorough correction of violations.

○Implementing barrier-free mass transit agencies, architectural structures, and roads (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

Based on the “law concerning the smooth facilitation of the movement of elderly and disabled persons” (2006, Bill #91. Referred to as “new barrier free legislation”), the initiative to implement barrier-free mass transit agencies, architectural structures, and roads is being promoted.

○Formation of pedestrian spaces (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, National Police Agency)

Movement is an occurring element that accompanies what is known as human activity, and employment is an element that supports leisure. Therefore, these barriers are removed, the creation of a road traffic environment where everyone can live safely and securely has become

an important issue, and the maintenance of traffic signals and sidewalk traffic safety facilities is being promoted.

3 Initiatives for Comprehensively Promoting Aged Society Measure

(1) Emergency economic measures for the security and growth of tomorrow (all ministries)

Taking into consideration the presently severe economy, employment conditions, confronting strong yen, and deflation, economic measures for ensuring economic recovery were decided in a cabinet meeting. "Employment", "environment", and "economy" are listed as pillars of these measures, and in the field of "employment", the earnest promotion of an "employment strategy" is being introduced to describe the establishment of new career opportunities in the nursing/medical fields and the promotion of human resource development, work/life/balance (harmony between work and living), facilitation of the labour force participation of women, the elderly and disabled persons, and ensuring that there are various ways to work.

(2) New growth strategy (basic policy) (all ministries)

In December 2009, a new growth strategy (basic

policy) that aims for basic policies in 6 strategy fields was organized and approved in a Cabinet meeting. In the "Health Strategies for Major Countries Based on Life Innovation", which is one of the 6 strategy fields, booting supplies of barrier-free residences for the elderly, eliminating future insecurity of the elderly, foundation strengthening of nursing care services, and the realization of regional elderly people living secure lives are listed. The strategy fields will be compiled as "New Growth Strategies" for June 2010.

(3) "New community" round table conference

Based on the policy speech in the 173rd Diet session, dialogue regarding the wide penetration of the "new community" philosophy and its vision among citizens, businesses and governments, along with the orientation of future goals in Japanese society and the manner of system and government that will accomplish such aims are being held from January 2010.