

## 1 FY 2010 Measures for the Aging Society

### 1 Budget Concerning Aged Society Measures

Aged society measures are being consistently implemented in every field of promotion for employment/income, health/welfare, study/social participation, living circumstances, and investigative research.

The budget linked to the 2010 aged society measures in the general account budget is 17,487,200,000,000 yen, and in each field the budget is 10,613,400,000,000 yen for employment/income, 6,827,300,000,000 yen for health/welfare, 14,000,000,000 yen for study/social participation, 9,400,000,000 yen for living circumstances, and 23,100,000,000 yen for investigative research.

### 2 Promotion of Aged Society Measures

The main policies by field in 2010 are as listed below.

#### (1) Employment/income

##### ○Establishment of the elderly employment security enhancement subsidy (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

An elderly employment security enhancement subsidy was established, and assistance is carried out when projects with the objective of establishing and enhancing employment security measures of system adoption in order for all employees interested to be able to work until 65 for affiliated employers groups and until 70 in any form of work.

##### ○Proliferation and facilitation of telecommuting (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

Until 2010 telecommuters were developed for accomplishing the objective of comprising 20% of the working population. In order for the consistent and quick implementation of the "Telecommuting Population Doubling Action plan", (May 2005 Relevant Ministry Liaison Conference Decision Concerning the Promotion of Telecommuting, approved by IT Strategy Headquarters), promotional activities for telecommuting based on holding seminars are being

carried out in cooperation with academic, business, and governmental "Telecommuting Promotion Forums".

##### ○Support of Silver Human Resource Centers (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

In addition to expanding support of project proposals and collaboration between Silver Human Resource Centers and regional public institutions with an emphasis on the fields "education, child-rearing, care, and environment", various employment opportunities are offered in addition to ensuring suitable operation so that members can work safely in an close area in every Silver Human Resource Center.

##### ○Dealing with the pension record problem (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy)

In relation to the pension record problem, this correspondence is placed at "National Project" whereby it will be intensively addressed for two years from 2010 to 2011, and correspondence will advance as much as possible in the next four years until 2013.

##### ○Deliberation of a pension system that is easy to understand based on fairness and transparency (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

The pension system was in an era of employment liquidation, and from the viewpoint of making the system easy to understand with fairness and transparency, the pension system will be unified without exception. Legislation will be approved in 2013 for a new pension system that will make "earnings-related pension" (which all citizens participate in) and the monthly 70,000 yen "minimum guaranteed pension" its framework. In the future, deliberation will advance towards specific institutional designs.

##### ○Reform measures concerning payment of the national pension premium (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

In the "bill that partially reforms the National Pension Act in order to support income security in old age based on the national pension and corporate pensions" which was presented in a regular Diet session in 2010, the execution of measures to prolong the period in which it was possible to extend back and pay the national pension premium from 2 to 10 years is included from the standpoint of preventing future low pensions or no pensions by making it easier to pay the premium.

## **(2) Health/welfare**

### **○Training project for leaders of long-term care services (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)**

In order to correspond with review of the long-term care insurance operation and new administrative issues, training the leaders of municipal training projects, who are needed especially for ensuring special knowledge and a certain quality, are trained.

Training projects for leaders of long-term care services are held with the objective of being conducive to the nationwide expansion of high-quality long-term care services.

### **○Promotion projects for municipal comprehensive community care (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)**

In order to promote comprehensive community care in cities, and projects are implemented that strengthen the collection and outgoing function of data related to services that support the local lives of elderly people including information related to services other than nursing care insurance or related to residences. Projects are also carried out which support the building of regional networks such as watch [protection] activities (50 centers across the country) with comprehensive community support centers.

Furthermore, in relation to elderly persons who live in cluster housing, 24-hour/365-day support windows are established, and projects are being implemented that offer comprehensive services in cooperation with related businesses including services other than long-term care insurance.

### **○Maintenance of long-term care/welfare service foundation (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)**

For the purpose of maintaining the service base needed from care prevention in accessible daily life spheres to the usage of long-term care services, and based on the "Regional Long-Term Care/Welfare Space Maintenance Facility Subsidy" and "Special Provisional Funds for Long-Term Care Foundation Emergency Maintenance", the maintenance of future-needed nursing facilities or nursing care centers during emergencies, as well as the foundational support of long-term care and welfare services for making use of discretion or independence/original innovations in accordance with the actual condition of municipal areas, are being supported.

### **○Ensuring the workers in the welfare/ long-term care field (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)**

With regards to securing the workers in the welfare and long-term care field, initiatives set up in 2009 are consistently applied, and support will be directed toward business owners who are addressing employment

management reform such as assistance in cases when inexperienced long-term care workers are hired. Furthermore, from the viewpoint of facilitating the entry of human resources, displaced worker training enhancement for acquiring special skills related to long-term care is implemented. In the "Welfare Human Resources Corner" set up in every major Hello Work nationwide, detailed employment advice and introductions, as well as guidance and advice for employers is made available.

Also, in Hello Work, which uses many temporary workers who were pressured to quit another industry, information is provided concerning long-term care, and support for induction towards the "welfare human resources corner" will be supported.

### **○Special support projects for regional welfare promotion (Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)**

In special support projects for regional welfare promotion, support is carried out towards municipalities that implement pioneering and experimental initiatives which aim to solve relevant issues in the local communities of the elderly.

### **○Deliberation of new system after disposal for the Old-old medical system Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare)**

Along with continually advancing initiatives for eliminating problems in the existing system, deliberation is moving forward regarding the specific manner of the new system following disposal of the old-old medical system.

## **(3) Study/social participation**

### **○Regional Vitalization Facilitation Investment Fund (Social Contribution) (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)**

Based on the application of the regional vitalization and employment facilitation investment fund (social contributory project-related), private financing is being complemented towards meeting the financing needs of business people. By implementing financing for those involved in "social businesses" through the Japan Finance Corporation, an environment that facilitates financing will be organized, and aims for stimulating business activities.

### **○Senior Volunteer Program (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)**

Senior Volunteer Programs 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.

#### **(4) Living circumstances**

##### **○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 and maintenance of the road traffic environment (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.

##### **○Establishment of project to promote the stabilization of elderly residences (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)**

A project has been established to promote the stabilization of elderly residences. When facilities supporting public rental housing and rented accommodations for the elderly meeting certain requirements are maintained integrally with medical facilities, the country is giving direct support

##### **○Fees required for promoting the proliferation of residential fire alarms (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)**

In order to effectively ensure safety from disasters so that

elderly and disabled persons feel secure to go about their lives and can participate in society, voluntary initiatives of business persons are prompted, and the proliferation of fire prevention measures are being facilitated for behavior characteristics in daily lifestyles and in an emergency.

#### **(5) Promotion of Investigative Research**

##### **○Very early diagnosis of cancer/treatment equipment general research development project (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)**

In order to detect minor cancers early, research development for next-generation radiation therapy machines is underway for treating ultrafine cancer that is difficult to detect with conventional technology or highly reliable diagnostic imaging technology.

##### **○ Next-generation function substitution technology research development project (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)**

Research development is being carried out for next-generation regenerative medical technology that facilitates the growth/differentiation/regeneration of stem cells inside the organism, and for small embedded-type auxiliary artificial hearts that can be used even in children.

##### **○Fees required with surveys for enhancing elderly pedestrian/elderly bicycle rider measures (National Police Agency)**

A wide-range field survey was conducted in relation to traffic accidents involving elderly pedestrians/bicycle riders. In order to make clear the solutions for these issues, cases in other countries were referenced while deliberation was carried out regarding incorporation measures of forms adapted to traffic environments in Japan, and elderly accident prevention measures were established from a new viewpoint.