

Section 3 Development of Measures for the Aging Society

1 Main Initiatives

(1) Employment/ income

○ Submission of the "Bill on the Partial Revision of the Act on Stabilization of Employment of Elderly Persons"

From September 2011 in the Labor Policy Council there have been held a study about measures to ensure employment until 65 for all employees who wish to remain employed after the age of retirement, in order to make employment and pension securely connected, and in January 2012 there was made a proposal to the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare. Based on this proposal a bill outline was advised to the same deliberative Council and the report was submitted to the Minister in February of the same year.

This report was accepted and the "Bill on the Partial Revision of the Act on Stabilization of Employment of Elderly Persons", which promotes abolition of the criteria to limit elderly persons covered by the continued employment system, was submitted to the regular Diet session in 2012.

○ Support of Silver Human Resource Centers

The Silver Human Resources Center Project (as of the end of March 2011, the number of Silver Human Resource Centers was 1,298, with approximately 790,000 members) supports project proposals and collaboration of Silver Human Resource Centers and local government in the fields of “education, child-rearing, long-term care, and environment”, furthermore, each Silver Human Resource Center is working to ensure appropriate management along with providing a variety of employment opportunities to work safely in a near-by area.

○ Establishment of workplace expansion subsidies for elderly persons

Due to the introduction of systems in which all willing people can work until 65 or until 70, a new system of workplace expansion subsidies for elderly persons was established, and it supports employers who are working on building employment management systems and expansion of workplaces for elderly persons, and is aimed at creating workplaces that will help elderly persons to continue working with vigor and enthusiasm.

○ **Establishment of a sustainable and stable public pension system**

To establish a sustainable and stable public pension system, maintaining the 50 percent share of the government contribution to the basic pension funds is indispensable.

In fiscal 2011 the "Act for Partial Revision of the Act that Partially Revised the National Pension Act, etc." (Act No.121 of December 17, 2011) came into effect, and by using revenues from issuing recovery bonds, the share of the government contribution to the basic pension funds was maintained at the level of 50 percent.

In fiscal 2012 in addition to the 50 percent share of the government contribution to the basic pension funds due to issuing government bonds, on 10 February, 2012 the "Bill for Partial Revision of the Act that Partially Revised the National Pension Act, etc.", concerning eliminating the special standards for pensions, was submitted.

○ **Creation of a public pension system, which should be neutral in individual choices of lifestyles**

From the viewpoint that a public pension system should be neutral that is which does not affect choices of life courses and ways of working, the "Bill for Partial Revision of the National Pension Act, etc. in order to strength the Financial Ground and Minimum Guarantee Function of the Public Pension System", including "expanded use of social insurance by short time employees" or "exemption from social insurance premiums during the maternity leave", was submitted on 30 March 2012.

(2) Health and Welfare

○ Lifelong health promotion

In order to promote the "National Health Promotion Measures for the 21st Century (Health Japan 21)" which was formulated in 2000, the "Healthy lifestyle national movement" (implemented since 2008) which was focused on "moderate physical activity", "adequate diet", and "non smoking" was further popularized, it developed into the "Smart Life Project" which has been introduced from 2011, mainly through corporate economic activities and efforts performed at workplaces in cooperation with private enterprises, further promotion of measures for lifestyle-related diseases were promoted.

○ **Promotion of Integrated Community Care System**

"The act for partial revision of the long-term care insurance act, etc., in order to strengthen long-term care service infrastructure", concerning promotion of further efforts to realize the "Integrated Community Care System" for the 5th insured long-term

care service plans, starting from fiscal 2012, was established during the 177th regular session of the Diet. In addition, in 2012 in order to simultaneously revise medical and long-term care compensations, the examination by the Care Expenditure Working Group of the Social Security Council was conducted.

○ **Ensuring necessary long-term care services**

To let single people or people requiring intensive long-term care continue living at home as long as possible, with the help of home-visit long-term care and home-visit nursing, and based on the appropriate assessment and management, “regular visiting/on-demand response services” which offer an appropriate combination of regular patrols and support at any time of day and night were established.

Furthermore, as for securing of welfare and long-term care human resources, there were efforts to support employers who worked on improving employment management, such as training people responsible for employment management in general employment management of care workers, or giving subsidies for installation of equipment that would contribute to the development of working environment of care workers.

○ **Promotion of measures to support the elderly with dementia**

In fiscal 2011 based on the “Urgent project for improving the quality of life and medical care of dementia” proposal that was compiled in July 2008, there were carried out efforts to 1) understand the actual situation regarding dementia, 2) promote development of dementia-related research and treatment methods, and improve diagnostic techniques, 3) provide appropriate medical care and promote early diagnosis by enhancing regional medical systems that focus on chief physicians, etc. 4) support persons or their families and disseminate proper care by building support networks of persons themselves or their families or by training professional staff for dementia care, 5) promote actively measures against premature senility. In addition, in fiscal 2011, promotion of placement of dementia supporting community workers and civic guardianship activities were done in order to let people live in places they got used to, even in case of dementia.

○ **Promotion of life support through mutual support in the region**

In January 2011, in order to promote strategically social inclusion policy which includes strengthening of safety nets for such problems as “isolation,” “isolated family” or “society in which individuals are isolated and have weak personal links between each other,” the “Society to encompass each and every” mission team was established.

In May of the same year the same mission team compiled the "basic concept for promoting social inclusion policy," and the "Urgent policy proposal regarding the social inclusion" in August.

In response to this, as part of the social inclusion policy, the third supplementary budget in fiscal 2011 added a "One-stop consultation support for social inclusion project," and accompanying support and interview consultations were performed by the "Social Inclusion Support Center" organization to help to find concrete solutions after one-stop telephone consultations.

In addition, about preventing of the so-called "solitary deaths," in February 2012 local governments were asked for strengthening thoroughly the cooperation with electric power companies and gas companies, and for the establishment of a centralized system for taking information to welfare departments of other local governments.

(3) Study/social participation

○ Ensuring diverse learning opportunities in primary and secondary education institutions

According to the new Course of Study, in schools at all three levels, for schoolchildren to deepen their understanding of elderly people and aging society issues, experiential activities are being promoted, including interaction with the elderly and social services such as volunteer activities.

Furthermore, in the "Project on rich experience activity promotion" aimed at supporting promotion of experiencing activities in local governments, in the "Nature accommodation experience project – Children's exchange in rural areas –" along with group accommodation experience and nature experience implemented by elementary schools, there are subsidies for some of experience activities such as volunteer activities or intergenerational exchange with the elderly.

○ Expansion of the donation tax system

In June 2011, with amending the "Law to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities" that concerned measures for establishment of the financial base, the review of the certification system, and etc; the donation tax system was expanded by relaxation of requirements for certified nonprofit corporations, by introducing tax credit for income tax with respect to donations made to certified nonprofit corporations and other similar organizations that meet the criteria, which are public interest incorporated associations and foundations, educational institutions, social-welfare-service corporations, relief-service and rehabilitation-service corporations, and so forth.

○ **The “New Public Commons” support project**

According to the supplementary budget for fiscal 2010 (¥ 8.75 billion), together with distributing grants to each prefecture, using the funds that installed in each prefecture, the support on collecting donations and infrastructure development activities in NPOs, etc. is being carried out, and there is support of initiatives carried out in cooperation with NPOs, companies and local governments.

In addition, according to the third supplementary budget for fiscal 2011 (¥ 880 million), in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, in order to support the community planning and development of support centers by leaders of "New Public Commons," the funds of the three affected prefectures are being added up.

○ **The "New Public Commons" Promotion Council**

The "New Public Commons" Promotion Council, which has been held from October 2010, compiled three reports: how the relationship between the government and civil sector should be, how information disclosure and transmission infrastructure should be, and how victim assistance activities by the "New Public Commons" should be. In July 2011, the council also organized "Government Actions" in response to these reports, following up "Government Actions" for the proposals by the "New Public Commons" Roundtable.

(4) Living conditions

○ **Promotion of the supply of high-quality private rental housing**

In order to secure elderly persons' residence where they can live with confidence, in October 2011 the "Law to Partially Amend the Law Concerning Stable Supply of Residences for the Elderly" was implemented, the registration system of "Housing for the elderly with services" was established linked to long-term care and medical care. To promote the supply of this housing with services for the elderly, subsidization of maintenance costs and application of exceptional tax system are provided along with loans provided by Japan Housing Finance Agency.

○ **Assistance to the elderly on relocating to housing suitable for their elderly stage**

From fiscal 2011, support to promote reverse mortgages lending by private financial institutions has been provided utilizing the housing loan insurance program applicable to the upfront lump sum payment required when moving into housing accompanied with services for the elderly.

In addition, the condition requiring the borrowers to reside in their house during their loan repayment period which is applied to loans provided by the former Government Housing Loan Corporation has been eased enabling the elderly to rent their detached houses to families raising children.

○ **Support for implementation of barrier-free public transportation**

In order to facilitate elderly people's mobility, the elderly-friendly facilities have been promoted such as introduction of non-step buses and installation of elevators in airports, stations and other public transport terminals (Chart 2-1-1).

As a way to promote this, such support measures are being implemented as introduction of non-step buses and welfare taxis, and implementation of barrier-free train stations and passenger terminals.

Chart 2-1-1 Situation on development of public transport facilities for older persons

(1) Situation on implementing barrier-free facilities in passenger terminals (Note 1)

	Number of passenger facilities with the average of more than 5,000 visitors per day	By the end of FY 2010		Number of passenger terminals with the average of more than 5,000 visitors per day and installed toilets	By the end of FY 2010 Toilets for the disabled
		Eliminating of steps	Blocks guiding the visually impaired		
Railway stations	3	2,401 (85.4%)	2,736 (97.3%)	3	2,245 (83.3%)
Bus terminals	37	34 (91.9%)	32 (86.5%)	27	15 (55.6%)
Passenger ship terminals	6	6 (100.0%)	5 (83.3%)	5	5 (100.0%)
Air passenger terminals	20	19 (95.0%) (100.0% Note 2)	20 (100.0%)	20	20 (100.0%)

(Note 1) Numbers being conformed to the standards of public transportation mobility facilitation based on the Barrier-free Law (law concerning promotion of facilitation of people with disabilities and older persons' mobility). At the railway stations with the average of more than 5,000 visitors per day, which have height of more than 5 meters, the proportion of stations with one or more elevators installed is 88.0%, with one or more escalators installed is 74.0%.

(Note 2) As for air passenger terminals, installation of elevators, escalators and slopes which persons with disabilities can use has already reached 100% by the end of March 2001.

(2) Situation on barrier-free vehicles

	Total of vehicles	Vehicles compatible with the standards of mobility facilitation by the end of FY 2010
Railway vehicles	52,871	26,180 (49.5%)
Low-floor buses	59,195	29,216 (49.4%)
Of which non-step buses		16,534 (27.9%)
Passenger ships	753	136 (18.1%)
Aircrafts	499	406 (81.4%)

(Note) "Vehicles which conform to the standards of mobility facilitation" are calculated in conformance to the standards of public transportation mobility facilitation regarding each vehicle.

(3) Situation on welfare taxi introduction

By the end of FY 2010 12,256 vehicles
(The total number of taxis 265,431 vehicles)

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

○ **Improvement of public facilities**

As for government buildings, in order to let all people including the elderly have a comfortable and smooth access to the facilities, the development of advanced barrier-free facilities that include automatic sliding doors at the entrance of the offices and multifunctional toilets, has been promoted.

Concerning city parks, based on the standards of the barrier-free law, in order to let all people, including the elderly and disabled use them comfortably, establishment of barrier-free park facilities is promoted by eliminating steps of the main garden paths and by installing toilets and parking which can be used without leaving one's wheelchair. In addition, city park development is promoted for letting anyone make a safe and easy use by utilizing comprehensive grants for social infrastructure development.

○ **Promotion of residential fire alarms**

In order to largely reduce casualties from increasing residential fires primarily with elderly people, regions were unified under the "Understanding of elderly people in need of assistance at the time of disaster and promotion of death occurrence prevention measures with emphasis on safety measures" through the nationwide disaster prevention exercises held in spring and autumn. Comprehensive residential fire prevention measures were promoted including facilitation and proliferation of flameproof goods and establishment of residential fire alarms.

○ **Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake**

In the first supplementary budget in fiscal 2011, by raising the percentage of state aid, the required national subsidies were provided for the restoration long-term and other facilities in the affected areas.

In addition, the third supplementary budget in fiscal 2011 added the "The provisional and exceptional fund for an urgent establishment of long-term care infrastructure" and financial support was carried out for the development of integrated community care centers based on the reconstruction support plans formulated by the affected municipalities, to improve the "Integrated Community Care " system which offers integral and continuous services for medical and long-term care within one's everyday life area.

The request to provide free space of social welfare facilities for welfare evacuation shelters was directed to the relevant organizations.

At the same time, in order to support a safe daily life for the elderly in temporary housing areas, the installation and management of " support centers " was promoted as

a base for comprehensive consultation, home services, lifestyle support services, local exchanges and other comprehensive features.

It was expected that many victims of the earthquake including the elderly would face fraud and other legal troubles, which go with disaster, resulted in a mentally and economically unstable situation, and the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu), in order to support such victims started providing information on legal systems for livelihood rehabilitation by telephone consultations co-organized by bar associations and associations of judicial scriveners (all finished by October 2011) or a newly opened "Shinsai Houterasu dial" (either is free dial). Also, as a base for legal assistance for victims including the elderly, who have difficulties in going to urban areas where lawyers are, in addition to establishing branch offices along the coast of the affected areas for free consultations by lawyers and various experts, consultation patrols were conducted in temporary housing using cars available for an in-vehicle consultation.

(5) Promotion of Research and Studies

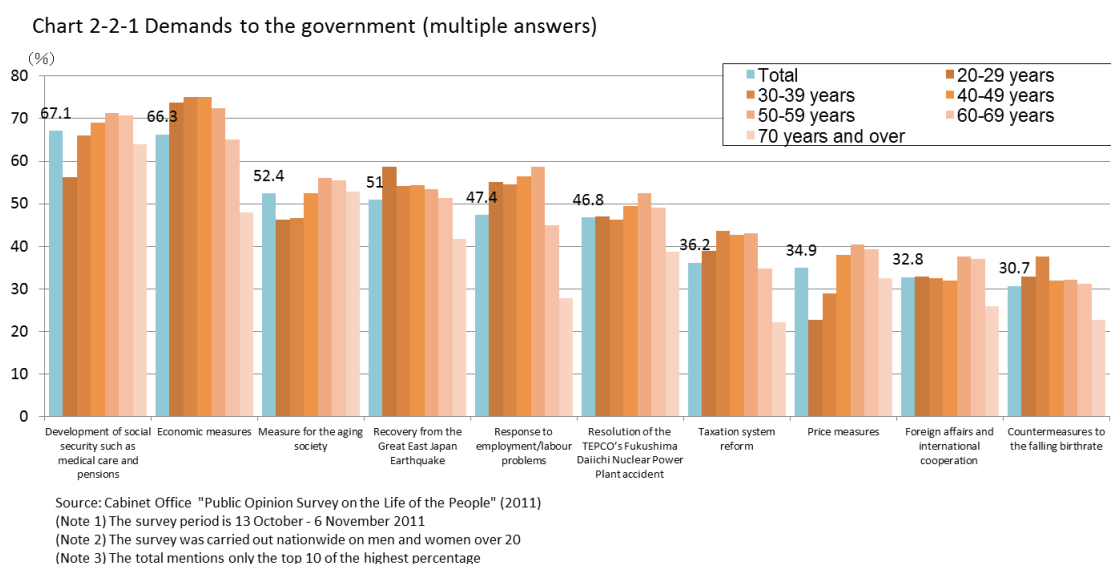
○ Research and studies on elderly persons' health promotion and age-related diseases

Support centers have been developed for practical application of promising basic research results about lifestyle-related diseases and malignant neoplasm (cancer) and research was conducted with the purpose of demonstrating molecular imaging technology that contributes to improvement of early diagnosis and drug treatment of these diseases. Also, while utilizing these results, efforts to realize medical care optimal for each individual continue to be promoted.

In addition, from fiscal 2011, in order to realize oncology of the next generation, innovative fundamental research results were nurtured and the "Project for Development of Innovative Research on Cancer Therapeutics" was promoted to accelerate research aimed at clinical use.

2 About evaluation of measures for the aging society

According to the “Public Opinion Survey on the Life of the People” (2011) by the Cabinet Office, regarding “Demands to the government” (Note), the most popular answer by totalling of people of all ages was “development of social security such as medical care and pensions” (67.1%), followed by “economic measures”(66.3%), and “Measures for the aging society” (52.4%). Breaking down by age, among people aged 60-69 years and 70 years or over the answer with the highest percentage was “Development of social security such as pensions and medical care”, but among people under 60 years old the “Economic measures” answer was the highest and amounted for more than 70%. In addition, the percentage of people cited “Measures for the aging society” exceeds 50% among people over the age of 40 means (Chart 2-2-1).



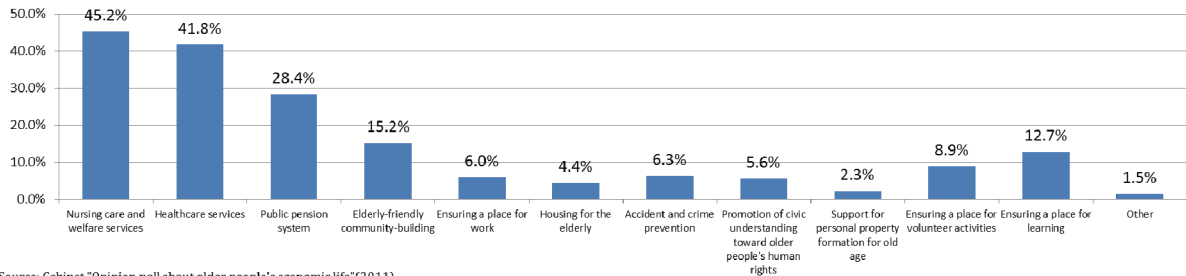
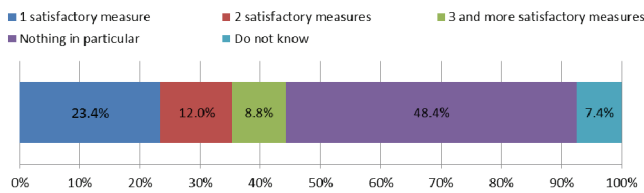
(Note) The question was “What do you think the government should focus on in future? Choose as many as you wish from the following.”

Next, in the "Opinion poll about elderly people's economic life"(2011) conducted by the Cabinet Office, examining satisfactory measures for elderly people (multiple answers) of all measures for the elderly, among people aged over 60 years old the percentage of people who responded that there are satisfactory measures for the elderly were 44.2%, people who responded "Nothing in particular" were 48.4%. Furthermore, among the people who responded that there are satisfactory measures for the elderly, measures with a high percentage of positive answers were "long-term care and welfare services" (45.2%), "healthcare services" (41.8%), and "public pension system" (28.4%) (Chart 2-

2-2).

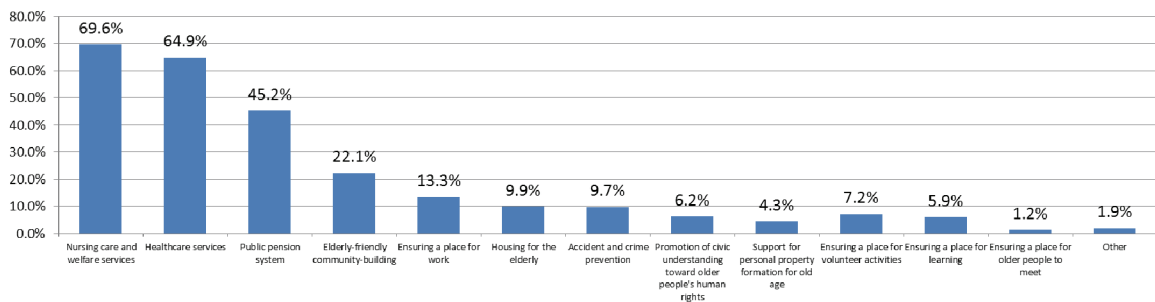
On the other hand, in the same survey looking at the measures for elderly persons that people over 60 years old want to be especially emphasized (multiple answers) , among people who think that there are measures to be especially emphasized (93.4%), measures with a high percentage of answers were "long-term care and welfare services" (69.6%), "healthcare services" (64.9%), "public pension system" (45.2%) (Chart 2-2-3).

Chart 2-2-2 Satisfactory measures for older persons (multiple answers)



Source: Cabinet "Opinion poll about older people's economic life"(2011)
 (Note 1) The survey was carried out nationwide on men and women over 60
 (Note 2) The question says "Are there any measures or support among measures and support for older people, that you are satisfied with? Choose from the following all that you think satisfactory."

Chart 2-2-3 Measures for the elderly to be especially emphasized (up to 3)



Source: Cabinet "Opinion poll about older people's economic life"(2011)
 (Note 1) The survey was carried out nationwide on men and women over 60
 (Note 2) The question says "Are there any measures or support among measures and support for older people, that you want to be especially emphasized? Choose up to 3 from the following."