

Section 2 Implementation Status of Measures in each Field

Principal Initiatives

1 Employment and Pension

○ Approach to the realization of a society where people can work regardless of age

In accordance with article 18 of the Labor Contract Act (Act No. 128, 2007), a rule was introduced that converts fixed-term labour contracts into open-ended labour contracts as requested by the workers in cases in which fixed-term labour contracts are renewed repeatedly over five years. The government submitted to the 186th ordinary Diet session the bill "Act on Special Measures for Fixed-term contract Workers with Specialized Knowledge, etc." for elderly workers who continue to work with a fixed-term contract after retirement, etc. The bill includes the special provision for the time to emergence of a right of request for the conversion of fixed-term labour contracts into open-ended labour contracts. The bill also requires employers that expect to apply the special provision to take measures on employment management according to the features of the workers (e.g. measure which allows them to maintain and improve their capabilities)

○ Smooth Implementation of Revised Child Care and Family Care Leave Law

In accordance with the Act to Reform Part of the Act to Reform Part of National Pension (Act No. 99, 2012), the ratio of the basic pension covered by the government in 2013 was set to one half, with the use of pension special-case public bonds. In October 2013, from the viewpoint of pension fiscal policy improvement and generational equality, a special-case level of the pension amount (higher than the standard level) was reduced by one percent.

○ Arrangement of companies' pensions

In order to respond to the challenges surrounding employee pension funds that were revealed with the AIJ problem, the Act to Reform Part of the Employee Pension Insurance Act for Securing the

Soundness and Reliability of Public Pension System (Act No. 63, 2013) was established and promulgated in June 2013. The main contents of the Act are the introduction of a special case dissolution system to urge early dissolution of employees' pension funds and to take measures to promote the transition to other companies' pension systems. After then, we prepared for the enforcement of said Act based on discussions at the Social Security Examination Committee Companies' Pension Sub-Committee (created in September) and the opinions of associated persons gathered from public comments.

2 Health, Care and Medical Treatment

○ Medical care system for the elderly

The National Council report reads: "With respect to the medical care system for the elderly, five years have already elapsed since its creation, and it is considered that the system is now sufficiently settled. In the future, it is appropriate to make the current system the foundation, and to make necessary improvements while taking into account the implementation situation, etc." Based upon the above, in the Act for the Social Security System Reform Program, we will discuss methods to alleviate the late-elderly care insurance premium burdens of low-income people, the total remuneration rate of late-elderly aid funds, and the handling of partial compensation for those aged 70-74 years (while also taking into consideration the compensation for low-income earners), with aims to submit a bill to the Diet in 2015. In addition, as for the medical care system for the elderly, we will discuss revisions as necessary based on the implementation status of medical insurance system reform.

○ Integrated and sustainable provision of home medical and nursing care in the community

In order for citizens to receive as much care as possible in the communities where they are used to living, it is necessary to realize the integrated community care

system and to provide care cooperated by medical and long-term care professions. Therefore, since 2013, we have introduced home medical care into Community Health Care Plans and have supported each prefecture through utilizing Fund for the Recovery of Regional Medical Care, etc.

3 Social Participation and Learning

○ Fulfilment of leisure time, for the elderly

At the time of granting re-license to basic broadcasters in November 2013, we requested in writing that they consider increased close-captioned broadcasting, audio description, and the increase of TV commercials with closed captions, etc. In addition, from January 2014, we have been holding “the Investigative Commission for Subtitles in the Age of Smart TV” and have been holding discussions on specific plans toward the dissemination of subtitled commercial messages and the like.

○ Promotion of ICT use to contribute to the elderly participation in social activities

In order to solve policy challenges brought on by the super-aging society and to discuss promotion measures regarding the utilization of information communication technology (ICT) toward the establishment of a new society model, since December 2012 we have been holding ICT Super-Aging Society Idea Meetings, and in May 2013 we prepared the Report on ICT Super-Aging Society Design Council Meetings - Realization of a Smart Platinum Society. Based on this report, we have held the Study Group on promoting realization of a Smart Platinum Society since December 2013 to discuss ideas more concretely toward the realization of a Smart Platinum Society.

○ Establishing an environment for supporters such as citizens and NPOs

In order to promote citizens’ open participation in social contribution activities, we promoted use of the expanded donation tax system and worked toward the smooth enforcement and awareness promotion of the Revised Act for the Promotion of Certain Non-Profit Activities. In addition, at Cabinet Office

NPO websites, we supplied information about civil activities; to promote collaborative activities that make use of the local bonds created by NPOs, we have held Building a Collaborative Society Meetings since April 2013 under the Minister in charge of economic policies. In addition, to promote the building of an active collaborative society, in January 2014 we held the Symposium for the Building of Collaborative Society in which we aimed to increase the prevalence of and enlightenment regarding collaborative activities.

○ Promoting of consumer education initiatives

In order to promote consumer education comprehensively and integrally, in December 2012 the Act on Promotion of Consumer Education (Act No.61 of 2012) was enforced. Based upon said Act, in June 2013 the Cabinet made a decision on “the Basic Policy on Promotion of Consumer Education,” and at three subcommittees formed under the Consumer Education Promotion Council (the Consumer Citizenship Development Subcommittee, the Information Utilization Enhancement Subcommittee, and the Regional Collaboration Promotion Subcommittee), discussions were held regarding the “issues to be addressed” set forth in said the Basic Policy.

4 Living Environment

○ Establishing environments for existing housing distribution and remodeling markets

In order to secure consumer trust in and smooth expansion of inspections used to understand the current situation of used houses at the time of their sales, we prepared in June 2013 the Guideline for Inspection of Existing Houses, which guides users on matters of note in inspection methods and services.

○ Protection from crimes, violation of human rights, illegal business practices, etc.

As for the importance of the regional network for the prevention and reduction of damage suffered by consumers

including the elderly, taking into account “the Proposals concerning the Arrangement of a Local Consumer Administration System” (dated August 6, 2013) (by Sub-Committee for Consumers), we held a meeting for “the Ideal Way Regional Systems Should Be To Ensure Consumers Safety And Reliability” the exchange of opinions concerning the state of regional systems to secure the safety and peace of mind of consumers, and prepared a report. The government also submitted bills such as the Act to Revise Part of the Act for the Prevention of Unjustifiable Premiums and Misrepresentation to the 186th ordinary Diet session.

Furthermore, in order to ease the recovery of proprietary damage, which happened to a fair number of consumers relating to consumer contracts, in April 2013 the government submitted the Bill on Special Measures Concerning Civil Court Proceedings for the Collective Redress for Property Damage Incurred by Consumers so that specific eligible consumer groups may bring lawsuits relating to claims for damages, etc. in place of consumers to the 183rd ordinary Diet session. The bill was established as law and promulgated in December of the same year.

○ **Promotion of disaster prevention measures**

In the revision of the Basic Act on Disaster Control Measures in June 2013, the heads of cities, towns and villages became obligated to prepare a list of those who need help with evacuation activities, which is a list of those who need special support during evacuations at the time of disasters, such as the elderly, disable, and babies who need special attention as a measure for disaster prevention; a system was also established by which information can be shared among firefighting organizations and regional supporters such as case workers.

5 **Vitalization of Markets Responsive to the Aging Society and the Promotion of Investigation and Research**

○ **Promotion of innovation in medical fields**

In order for associated ministries and

agencies to be able to jointly promote research and development in the medical field, on June 14, 2013 an arrangement with the associated Ministers on health and medical care strategy was made; the contents were included in the Japan Revitalization Strategy which was agreed upon by the Cabinet on the same day.

Based upon the Japan Revitalization Strategy, in August 2 of the same year, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Health and Medical Care Strategy was established after a Cabinet decision, and it is in charge of research and development in the medical care field and serves as a control tower. Under the Headquarters, comprehensive budget demands and allocation adjustments were implemented for the budgets related to research and development in the medical care field for FY 2014. In addition, at an expert investigation meeting related to research and development in the medical care field held on January 22, 2014, a report titled “Comprehensive Strategy concerning Research and Development in the Medical Care Field” was prepared to decide key fields of research and their goals.

In order to form a society in which citizens can enjoy healthy lives and longevity, the Cabinet approved the Bill for the Promotion of Health and Medical Care Strategy and the Bill for the Japan Medical Care Research and Development Organization, an Independent Administrative Corporation submitted them to the 186th ordinary Diet session in order to establish the Japan Medical Care Research and Development Organization, an independent administrative corporation, which aims to decide on health and medical strategies, establish a health and medical strategy headquarters to promote these efforts, and implement and assist environments conducive to medical research and development, all with the aim of promoting comprehensively and systematically the medical R&D needed to create world-leading medical care, and creating new industry activities to contribute to the formation of related communities.

○ **Research and development concerning medical, rehabilitation, and care-related**

equipment to support elderly independence

As a result of promoting measures toward the establishment of safety standards and verification methods and international standardization for service robots used in nursing care, Japan's proposal was adopted, and the international safety standard ISO 13482 concerning personal care robots was issued in February 2014.

○ **Investigation and research concerning trainings for elderly drivers**

Investigative research regarding trainings for elderly drivers (in order to rationalize the trainings and improve their contents) has been scheduled for the two years between FY 2013 and 2014. In FY 2013, we operated research into the current state of the trainings for the elderly, performing surveys targeting those who attended the lectures and collecting basic data; we also held discussions with scholars regarding how to improve the trainings and verification methods for later.

6 Foundation-building by All Generations in Response to the Super-aging Society

○ **The application of women's abilities in employment and work**

In order to arrange an employment environment in which workers are not discriminated against by gender, the maternity of working women is respected,

and women can utilize their abilities to the fullest, we conducted guidance and awareness activities regarding equal treatment of males and females according to the Act Concerning the Securing of Equal Chances and Treatment of Men and Women in the Field of Employment (Act No. 113, 1972). We also assisted so that employers and workers can peacefully and swiftly reach a settlement when disputes arise. In December 2013, enforcement rules of the revised Equal Employment Opportunity Law were promulgated, and we undertook measures to propagate knowledge ahead of enforcement in July 2014.

○ **Overall promotion of measures for child care support**

As a mechanism by which experts, local autonomies, those who care for children, and supporters of child care can participate in the policy-making process of child care support, at the Children and Child Care Conference established in the Cabinet Office in April 2013, we proceeded with concrete discussions toward the actual enforcement of the new system. In addition, in August of the same year, we publicized a summary draft of basic guidelines that were set forth for basic matters relating to the significance of children and support for child care and related measures, and, by January 2014, we prepared a summary of the various facilities and business standards, etc.