

1 Measures for the Aging Society in FY 2015

The main measures in FY 2015 are as follows.

(1) Employment and Pension

Support and promotion of re-employment of the elderly

In order to improve the transition back into work for the elderly, by using the subsidies to support transfer of labor, we will support measures for operators who have entrusted private job placement agencies with the re-employment of the elderly forced to retire and for operators who accept the elderly into training (including OJT).

We will also promote transfer of labor by increasing the said subsidies from 2015 on to provide subsidies to employers who employed the elderly who were forced to leave previous employment shortly after they left it.

Development and popularization of remote work using information communications

The relevant ministries will cooperate in the development of an environment and information dissemination for the further expansion of teleworking, as a means to promote remote working of the elderly, based upon the “Declaration to be the World’s Most Advanced IT Nation” approved by the Cabinet on June 24th, 2014.

Dissemination and study of Childcare and Caregiver Leave Act

We will disseminate the information on the detail of the worker welfare system stipulated in the “Act on Childcare Leave, Caregiver Leave, and Other Measures for the Welfare of Workers Caring for Children and Other Family Members” (Act No. 76 of 1991, hereinafter referred to as the “Childcare and Caregiver Leave Act”) and instruct employers to comply with the said act by establishing the system of caregiver leave and other welfare systems. We will conduct a study for the revision of the “Revised Childcare and Caregiver Leave Act” enforced in June 2010 scheduled for five years after its enforcement.

Improvement of systems such as corporate pension systems

We will have to create more awareness and expand the use of corporate pension systems and

strengthen their function to supplement the public pension systems, as the diversification of the work style progresses and the adjustment of the income standards for receiving public pensions is expected. Therefore, we will promote necessary review by submitting the “Bill for Partial Revision of the Defined Contribution Pension Act” to make the act consistent with the “Guidelines for the Tax Reform in FY 2015” to the Diet.

(2) Health, Nursing Care and Medical Care

Promotion of nursing care prevention

We will support the activities of municipalities for the establishment of comprehensive community care system as we have decided to begin the “Comprehensive Project for Providing Preventive Service of Long-term Care and Daily Life Support” in FY 2015 to develop and improve various life support services, establish a system for social participation of the elderly and community-based mutual support and promote preventive service for long-term care.

Improvement of the healthcare system for the elderly

We have submitted the “Bill for Partial Revision of the National Health Insurance Act to Establish a Sustainable Health Insurance System” to the 189th Diet Session. The bill includes a measure concerning the contribution of Employee’s insurance to the health care system for the elderly aged 75 and over. This measure will increase the proportion of the revenue-based contribution, which is 1/3 in the current system, stepwise, to 1/2 in FY 2015, 2/3 in FY 2016 and 100 % in FY 2017, to make the contribution in proportion to revenue and strengthen mutual support as stipulated in the “Act for the Social Security System Reform Program.”

Integrated and sustainable provision of home medical and long-term care in the community

We will utilize the Fund for the Provision of Integrated Community-based Healthcare and Long-term Care to support community-based activities for the improvement of home healthcare and long-term care. We will designate projects promoting integration of home healthcare and

long-term care as Community Support Project stipulated in the “Long-term Care Insurance Act” and municipal governments will take lead in the implementation of those projects in cooperation with medical associations of counties, cities and wards. Municipalities will begin the implementation of the projects in April 2015 if they can and all the municipalities will have begun the implementation by April 2018.

Promotion of livelihood support through mutual help in regional communities

In FY 2015, we will continue promoting community-based welfare activities so that everyone can maintain a peaceful life in a community that s/he is familiar with, regardless of age, sex and living environment, by reorganizing the existing community-based welfare projects and establishing “The Project for Creation of the Foundation of Mutual Support for Needy People in Local Communities.” We intend to support identification of needs in communities by local governments, creation of participatory community-based services and invigoration of informal activities in communities in the new project whose purpose is to establish foundation of the activities to support people in need of support including the elderly with the entire community through mutual support activities based on mutual reliance of community residents.

(3) Social Participation and Learning

Social participation and creating life purpose for the elderly

We will implement the “Project to Promote Activities to Create Purpose of Life of the Elderly” so that the elderly who have retired from work can live an active life with a role in local communities. In the project, the elderly will carry out volunteer activities which not only bring some income to them but also provide them with purpose of life and improve their physical condition. The project will also support the activities which form the basis of preventive services of long-term care and life support services.

Promotion of consumer education initiatives

The Consumer Affairs Agency compiles the information on consumer-education-related teaching materials, activities and training

courses in the “Consumer Education Portal Site” and distributes the information from the site. We will renovate the system of the portal site to make it easier to use in accordance with the discussion in the Consumer Education Promotion Council for the further promotion of consumer education.

(4) Life environment area Adoption of barrier free designs in the public transport systems, creation of walking space and improvement of the road traffic environment

We will promote the ICT-assisted pedestrian mobility support toward the construction of a “Universal Society” in which all the people including the elderly, the disabled and foreign tourists can obtain information on transport they require and live an active life. We will conduct field experiment on the generation of the open-data required for the ICT-assisted pedestrian mobility support and the promotion of the use of the open-data and a study on required support measures.

(5) Vitalization of Market Response to the Aging Society and the Promotion of Investigation and Research

Studies on diseases associated with aging and improvement of the physical conditions of the elderly

We will implement measures against cancer in accordance with the “10-year Cancer Research Strategy” formulated in accordance with the “Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs” approved by the Cabinet in June 2012. We will also strongly promote studies aiming at the application of new cancer prevention and early detection methods and the development of new medicines, medical equipment and standards of care, in addition to the studies aiming at contributing to the policy recommendations for the solution of the policy issues stated clearly in the Basic Plan.

Research and development on the utilization of ICT

We will conduct the research and development and provide services on ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) so that the elderly can move safely and comfortably. This system including Driving Safety Support Systems (DSSS) and ETC 2.0 contributes to prevent traffic accidents

and to create environment that enables people to drive with composure by offering visual and auditory information regarding peripheral traffic situation to drivers with the use of forefront information and communication technology so that drivers can pay suitable attention to risk factors.

(6) Foundation-building by all generations in response to the Super-Aging Society

Promotion of irregular employment measures

The government has submitted the “Bill for Partial Revision of the Act for Securing the Proper Operation of Worker Dispatching Undertakings and Improved Working Conditions for Dispatched Workers” to the 189th Session of the Diet to set rules for workers in different modes of irregular employment, dispatched workers, fixed-term workers and part-time workers. When the bill is enacted, we will disseminate the information on its contents for its smooth enforcement. We will continue disseminating the information on the revised Labour Contract Acts to fixed-term workers. We will ensure the performance of the “Act on Improvement, etc. of Employment Management for Part-Time Workers” (Act No. 76 of 1993) through the rectification instruction stipulated in the act for part-time workers.

Overall promotion of measures for child care support

We will promote comprehensive support to children and child care in accordance with the guidelines, including the details of measures to be taken and numerical targets to be achieved in the five-year period between FY 2010 and FY 2014 for the realization of a society which supports children and childcare, in accordance with Article 7 of the “Basic Act for Measures to Cope with Society with Declining Birthrate”. We will also take measures to ensure smooth operation of the new children and childcare support system as we will begin the full-scale operation of the system in April 2015.