

**ANNUAL REPORT ON
GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
(SUMMARY)**

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Measures for Persons with Disabilities (Focusing on FY2002)

Measures devised for persons with disabilities, particularly those implemented in FY2002, can be classified under one of four perspectives: “mutual understanding and exchange,” “building the foundations for independent participation in society,” “building the foundations for daily life” and “building the foundations for a comfortable living environment.”

The principal measures devised, with a particular focus on the new measures for FY2002, are described below.

Chapter 1 Comprehensive Approach to Measures for Persons with Disabilities

With the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities and the Plan for Persons with Disabilities both ending in FY2002, a Panel to Discuss the New Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities was organized, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary serving as chairman. Studies were then carried out by teams from the various ministries/agencies involved. The result was a new Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities scheduled to start from FY2003 and endorsed by the Cabinet on 24 December 2002; the Five-Year Plan for Implementation of Priority Measures was also approved on the same day by the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities.

Revision of the conditions for disqualification for persons with disabilities has also been pursued.

On the final year of the “Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,” Japan hosted the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002, sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), from 25 to 28 October 2002 in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture.

To improve welfare services from a user’s standpoint for persons and children with physical or intellectual disabilities, a transition was made in April 2003 from a measure-oriented system under which the administration specified the recipients of services and decided on the nature of the services to be provided, to a new user-oriented system (“assistance benefit supply system”) under which persons with disabilities, on an equal partnership with the service provider, select services for themselves and conclude contracts for the use of these services.

Chapter II Mutual Understanding and Exchange (public relations activities and education for removing “mental barriers” necessary for further promotion of measures)

Section 1 Public Awareness and Education

Greater understanding of persons with disabilities is being promoted among the general public through various events such as those for the “Day of Disabled Persons” and “Week of Disabled Persons,” through school education, and through the encouragement of community volunteer activities.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) At a commemorative gathering for the “Day of Disabled Persons” on 9 December 2002 attended by both the Emperor and Empress, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi presented the Prime Minister’s Award to persons with disabilities who had independently participated in social activities and set a positive example for others, to people and groups that had made outstanding achievements in improving the welfare of persons with disabilities, and to the winners of the “Expanding Circles in One’s Heart” Competition for compositions on personal experiences and of the “Day of Disabled Persons” Poster Competition.
- (2) The Japan Volunteer Festival FY2002 took place in Yamanashi Prefecture.
- (3) In December 2002, revisions were made to the Law for Promotion of Activities of Non-Profit Organizations (NPO Law) to allow an expanded scope for non-profit activities.

Section 2 International Cooperation

Grant assistance for facility construction, technical cooperation such as the technical training of overseas participants and the dispatch of experts, and assistance for private-sector grassroots exchanges was provided.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) In FY2002, 54 projects were implemented with Grant Assistance for

Grassroots Projects, including a project to build facilities for persons with physical disabilities in Pakistan.

- (2) In FY2002, 9 training courses for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities were conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- (3) Over a five-year period from November 2001, a rehabilitation specialist training project is implemented in the People's Republic of China.
- (4) Over a five-year period from August 2002, an extensive Asia-Pacific Center for Persons with Disabilities project is implemented in Thailand.

Chapter III Building the Foundations for Independent Participation in Society (education, nurturing, employment, and work necessary for persons with disabilities to be independent)

Section 1 Education and Nurturing of Children with Disabilities

In school education, in order to cultivate a foundation to enable children with disabilities to maximize their abilities, become self-reliant and participate in social activities, education is provided according to the category and degree of disability.

Community and welfare facilities systems have been improved to detect disabilities at an early stage through health examinations and to provide rehabilitation service suited to differing degrees of disability among individuals.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) In April 2002, the Enforcement Ordinance for School Education Law was amended. The amendment was to make the national standards and procedures of assignment for children with disabilities more modernized and flexible reflecting the progress in medical science and science and technology.
- (2) In March 2003, “The Future Direction of Special Support Education (Final Report)” was released. This report includes measures for making the educational system more flexible, improving the ability of teachers, and creating a system for high quality education with the cooperation of other persons and organizations. This report also asserts the necessity to meet the needs of children with Learning Disabilities (LD) and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) etc.
- (3) Day care, short stay, and home help services for children with disabilities are provided.

Section 2 Measures to Promote Employment

In accordance with the Law for Employment Promotion, etc., of Persons with Disabilities, private enterprises and national and local governments are required to employ a certain percentage of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Employment Rates Stipulated by Law (applicable from 1 July 1998)

Private Enterprises	General Private Enterprises (56 and more regular employees)	1.8%
	Government-affiliated Organizations in Certain Categories (48 and more regular employees)	2.1%
National and Local Public Organizations		2.1%
Prefectural Boards of Education, etc.		2.0%

Current Employment Situation for Persons with Disabilities (as of 1 June 2002)

Classification	Employment Rate
General Private Enterprises	1.47 (1.49)
Government-affiliated Organizations	1.96 (1.97)

Classification	Employment Rate
National Organizations	2.14 (2.14)
Prefectural Organizations	2.46 (2.45)
Municipal Organizations	2.44 (2.46)
Prefectural Boards of Education, etc.	1.23 (1.22)

Figures in parentheses are as of 1 June 2001.

To achieve the employment rates stipulated by law, companies that have not yet achieved appropriate employment rates are offered advice, while those enterprises that have achieved the stipulated employment rate are offered adjustment grants to employ persons with disabilities.

Support has been provided through a third sector approach to companies having workers with severe physical or intellectual disabilities. Vocational support facilities are also established for persons with disabilities that have difficulty in finding regular work, and day care services are offered.

Vocational rehabilitation technologies are developed and disseminated and vocational rehabilitation services are provided at vocational centers for persons with disabilities.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) A job coach program, which was implemented as a pilot program in FY2000 and FY2001 and helps mainly persons with intellectual or mental disabilities adjust to their workplaces, became a full-fledged program in May 2002.
- (2) The Law for Employment Promotion, etc., of Persons with Disabilities was partially revised in FY2002. In line with this revision, centers were established to assist persons with disabilities in finding employment and to support their livelihood in an integrated way. These centers also provide a forum for cooperation with local community institutions involved in employment, welfare, and education.

Section 3 Promotion of Sports, Recreation and Cultural Activities to Enrich the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

To promote sports for persons with disabilities, training is given to those who lead sports activities for persons with disabilities, teams are dispatched to international competitions, and national sports contests organized by sporting organizations for persons with disabilities are supported through the Sports Fund for Persons with Disabilities. In addition, the Sports Promotion Fund offers subsidies to sporting organizations.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) In FY2002, the Second National Sports Games for Persons with Disabilities, which combines the National Sports Games for Persons with Physical Disabilities and the National Sports Games for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, was held in Kochi Prefecture.

Chapter IV Building the Foundations for Daily Life (health, medical care and welfare necessary to ensure a high quality of life for persons with disabilities)

Section 1 Measures to Ensure a Stable Livelihood

The Disability Basic Pension and the Disability Employees' (Mutual Aid)

Pension are provided as income guarantees to persons with disabilities, and the Special Allowance for Persons with Disabilities is given to support those who suffer from particularly severe disabilities.

Section 2 Measures for Health and Medical Care

To prevent and detect diseases leading to disabilities at an early stage, prenatal/postnatal health examinations, mass screening for genetic metabolic disorders, and health examinations for infants are provided. Perinatal intensive care units and perinatal centers for mothers and children at national university hospitals have been established to offer perinatal medical care.

Rehabilitation and developmental medical treatment are provided to alleviate and eliminate physical disabilities, rehabilitation and other departments have been established in national university hospitals, and in-patient medical care has been provided for children and persons with progressive muscular dystrophy in national hospitals and sanatoriums.

Among the measures for mental health and welfare are the use of public funds to cover the medical expenses of legally sheltered inpatients and the provision of psychiatric day care services to persons with mental disabilities staying at home. Mental health and welfare counseling are also offered, and public health nurses visit the homes of persons with mental disabilities to offer guidance.

(Principal measures implemented)

A draft of a law for the medical care and treatment of those who have done serious harm to others under a state of mental unsoundness was submitted to the National Diet in March 2002 with the aim of improving the condition of such persons, preventing a recurrence of similar behavior, and helping their social rehabilitation.

Section 3 Welfare Measures to Support Daily Life

Home helpers are dispatched to assist persons with disabilities in living independently within their communities. Persons with disabilities also have access to short-stay services, group homes, and day care services.

Facilities for persons with disabilities are enhanced in accordance with improvement plans designed by prefectures and designated cities.

(Principal measures implemented)

In order to enable persons with physical disabilities to use public facilities or public transport to be accompanied by animals – guide dogs, service dogs, and hearing dogs – that assist persons with disabilities in their daily lives, the Law of the Assistance Dog of Persons with Physical Disability went into effect in October 2002.

Section 4 Securing of Specialists

Certified social workers, certified care workers, certified psychiatric social workers and other rehabilitation professionals are trained to increase the human resources in the welfare sector.

Rehabilitation education has been expanded to train and improve the quality of personnel in the medical profession, including doctors and nurses.

Section 5 Promotion of Research and Development and Dissemination of Welfare Apparatus

Industrial infrastructure is developed through the promotion of Research and Development and the establishment of standards and evaluation criteria to support the sound development of the assistive device industry.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Research Institute of National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities carry out Research and Development activities. The New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) and the Association for Technical Aids also subsidize Research and Development activities.

Prosthetic appliances (artificial limbs, living aids, wheelchairs, etc.) and equipment for daily use (bathtubs, special toilets, Braille typewriters, etc.) are supplied as part of the public provision of assistive devices.

Research and Development is being implemented to contribute to the

practical usage of information and communications systems for persons with disabilities, such as information barrier free-type communication and broadcast systems.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) Research and Development started from FY2001 on a system to support persons with disabilities to move about easily in cities. This system was further improved and expanded and a city-wide barrier-free map of Koganei-city was completed in FY2002.
- (2) The adoption of ISO/IEC Guide 71, a set of guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities, as a national standard was deliberated in FY2002, and is to be established as a Japanese Industrial Standards in June 2003.

**Chapter V Building the Foundations for a Comfortable Living Environment
(including barrier-free town planning, housing, transportation,
information services, crime and disaster prevention and other
measures to enable persons with disabilities to move about freely
outside the home and at work)**

**Section 1 Measures to Create a Comfortable Living Environment for
Persons with Disabilities**

Welfare-based town enhancements are planned, wide sidewalks and elevators are installed, and buildings and structures are being modified or improved to allow them to be used by persons with disabilities to create an environment in which persons with disabilities are able to easily access all areas of town, live independently and actively participate in society.

The Law for Promoting Easily Accessible Public Transportation Infrastructure for the Aged and the Disabled (Transportation Accessibility Improvement Law) went into force in November 2000. The government has also formulated the Basic Policy for Promoting Accessibility to Transportation to promote comprehensive and scheduled improvement of convenience and safety of public transportation by the aged/ disabled.

Projects are implemented to widen footpaths in rural, mountain and fishing village communities.

The government has been providing assistance to local governments for community development projects based on universal design that promote the building of cooperative towns.

Steady improvements have been made in comprehensive barrier-free urban planning, including the development of urban facilities (e.g., roads and parks designed with consideration for persons with disabilities) and comprehensive urban development such as land readjustment projects and urban renewal projects. Appropriate and systematic plans to establish social welfare facilities in city centers are advanced.

To ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are properly taken into

account when building structures, barrier-free environments are established in government buildings and facilities. The same is encouraged in the private sector through the provision of loans.

The 8th Five-year Programme for Housing Construction, launched in FY2001, gives as an aim the provision of housing that can continue to be used by persons with low functional capacity or those who have become disabled persons.

In addition to providing housing designed and equipped with the needs of persons with disabilities in mind, households with persons with disabilities have been given a preferential selection rate in lotteries for public housing facilities and rented public housing. Buildings that integrate residential and social welfare facilities are promoted in the context of public housing renewal and urban renewal projects.

The Government Housing Loan Corporation (GHLC) offers preferential interest rates for housing designed in consideration of the needs of persons with disabilities. GHLC has also made more loans available for relatively large-scale housing in which persons with disabilities live.

Park facilities are made easier for persons with disabilities to use by designing wider paths with gentle slopes, reducing the height of curbstones, placing handrails on paths and installing user-friendly lavatories; persons with disabilities are also admitted free of charge into national government parks. In addition, river and coastal facilities such as revetments and seawalls are designed with gently-sloped paths and ramps are installed in portside areas, all to improve access by persons with disabilities.

Accessibility of public transport is being improved to enable persons with disabilities to travel safely by public transport with little physical burden. In August 2001, the Guidelines for Accessible Passenger Facilities for Public Transportation, applicable to passenger facilities covered by the Transportation Accessibility Improvement Law, were formulated with universal design in mind. To address issues still outstanding in the course of compiling these earlier Guidelines, the Guidelines for the Movement Facilitation Program for Public Transport Systems by the Use of Audible Means were drafted in October 2002, and guidelines on warning guide blocks to be installed referred to in “Platform at Railway Station” were put together in December of that year.

Incorporating the concept of universal design, the Guidelines for Accessibility to Roads were drawn up in December 2002 to provide greater access to roadways by all users, especially persons with disabilities and the elderly, by widening lanes on walkways, improving sidewalks by fixing slopes and ramps, installing elevators and other pedestrian support facilities, and setting up rest spaces.

Tax incentives, subsidies and loans are offered to assist in the installation of elevators and escalators in public transport terminals and in the introduction of vehicles that are easy to use for persons with disabilities.

Guidelines incorporating the concept of universal design have been formulated to promote barrier-free environments through which even the elderly and persons in wheelchairs can pass without worry. Constructing wide sidewalks, improving existing sidewalks by fixing slopes and ramps, and installing elevators and escalators at pedestrian overpasses are among the efforts being undertaken to

improve accessibility.

Community zones are established in residential areas, disabled-friendly traffic signal systems and clearly visible directional arrows are installed, and toilets for persons with disabilities are built in service areas. Research and development are also pursued on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) using state-of-the-art information technologies, including Pedestrian Information and Communication Systems (PICS) that provide pedestrians with information needed for safe passage via mobile information terminals.

The “Omnibus Town Concept” promotes the introduction of buses with no entrance steps, buses equipped with wheelchair-lifts, and other types of bus for use by persons with disabilities and others who have difficulty in using public transport.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) Tax incentives have been offered since FY2001 to encourage the introduction of taxis with ramps and street cars with lowered floors.
- (2) The revision of the Road Traffic Act (promulgated on 20 June 2001) provides for the protection of pedestrians with disabilities by police officers and sets out prohibitions on the police pulling over ordinary vehicles displaying sign stickers for disabled persons.

Section 2 Measures Supporting Comfortable Living for Persons with Disabilities

Various measures are promoted in order to ensure that persons with visual, hearing, and other disabilities – often at a huge social disadvantage in terms of acquiring and communicating information – can swiftly and accurately acquire information and can access means of communicating information. These include dispatching volunteers for Braille, reading, and sign language as well as making sign language interpretation available in welfare offices. Support is being given to the proactive efforts of broadcasters, including closed captioning.

To assist persons with visual impairments in acquiring information, a Braille information network for newspaper articles are constructed and information on food and nutrition is provided through cassette tapes as well as large-print and Braille books. Consideration is also shown for persons with disabilities in regard to voting; for example, candidate lists for national elections are created in Braille, and sign language interpretation is introduced for election broadcasts by candidates.

In connection with postal services, postage rates for certain mail sent or received by persons with disabilities are reduced or eliminated. Postal Savings Account Statements Braille Service is available, and Braille Cash Cards Service for Postal Savings Accounts is issued. Notices regarding postal life insurance policies are also sent out in Braille, and Braille layouts have been posted at policyholder welfare facilities.

An emergency “110 fax service” and a fax network are introduced to prevent crimes against persons with disabilities, and police officers trained in sign language are stationed at koban (small police offices). Police departments

provide officers training programs on sign language, nursing care, and communication with persons with disabilities and support officers' participation in volunteer activities.

The government is pursuing a number of disaster-prevention measures for persons with disabilities. These include support for local government projects and emergency infrastructure projects that improve protection against disasters.

Measures for protecting persons with disabilities and others from landslide disasters are given high priority, and detailed disaster-related information is provided through flood hazard maps and other methods.

(Principal measures implemented)

- (1) In December 2002, revisions were made to the Guidebook for Voluntary Organizations on Disaster Protection. These revisions recommended the creation of disaster-prevention plans that include assistance for foreign residents, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and others at a particular disadvantage during emergencies. Greater coordination with other volunteer activities during emergencies was also encouraged.
- (2) The Law for Promotion of Measures for Protecting against Landslide Disasters in Districts on Alert came into effect in April 2001. The law sets out a licensing system for the development of facilities for people who are vulnerable to landslide disasters in districts on alert.

Reference Material

Current Status of Persons and Children with Disabilities

(Unit: 10,000 persons)

Classification	Total	Number Living at Home	Number Admitted to Facilities
Persons and Children with Physical Disabilities	351.6	332.7	18.9
Children with Physical Disabilities (under 18 years of age)	9.0	8.2	0.8
Persons with Physical Disabilities (18 years of age or older)	342.6	324.5	18.1
Persons and Children with Intellectual Disabilities	45.9	32.9	13.0
Children with Intellectual Disabilities (under 18 years of age)	10.3	9.4	0.9
Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (18 years of age or older)	34.2	22.1	12.1
Age Unknown	1.4	1.4	0
Persons with Mental Disabilities	204	170	34

Sources: 2001 Survey on the Actual Status of Children and Persons with Physical Disabilities, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, etc.

Number of Children Attending Special Schools, Special Classes in Elementary and Lower Secondary Schools, or Children Provided Special Instructions at Resource Rooms

(Figures are as of 1 May 2002; Unit: persons)

Schools for Blind Children	Schools for Deaf Children	Schools for Children with Intellectual Disabilities, Physical Disabilities and Health Impairments	Elementary and Lower Secondary Schools		Total
			Special Classes	Resource Rooms	
3,926	6,719	83,526	81,827	31,767	207,765

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Current Employment Situation for Persons with Disabilities

1. Current Employment Situation for Persons with Disabilities in the General Private Sector by Size of Enterprise

(Figures are as of 1 June 2002)

Classification	Number of Enterprises	Number of Regular Employees	Number of Persons with Disabilities			Employment Rate $C \div A \times 100$	Ratio of Enterprises that Have Not Achieved Employment Rate Stipulated by Law
			A. Persons with Severe Disabilities (Regular)	B. Disabled Persons Other Than Those Who Have Severe Disabilities (Regular)	C. Total $A \times 2 + B$		
Persons	Enterprises	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons	%	%
56-99	21,913 (21,756)	1,606,160 (1,598,239)	5,877 (6,136)	12,702 (13,762)	24,456 (26,034)	1.52 (1.63)	55.1 (53.3)
100-299	27,610 (27,823)	4,038,458 (4,062,950)	12,543 (13,061)	27,860 (29,097)	52,946 (55,219)	1.31 (1.36)	56.2 (54.8)
300-499	5,287 (5,385)	1,758,677 (1,795,280)	6,627 (6,462)	12,482 (12,448)	25,736 (25,372)	1.46 (1.41)	61.0 (61.8)
500-999	3,573 (3,597)	2,186,747 (2,207,254)	8,320 (8,511)	14,624 (15,208)	31,264 (32,230)	1.43 (1.46)	66.2 (66.6)

1,000-	2,555 (2,554)	7,159,342 (7,272,333)	31,812 (32,123)	48,258 (49,769)	111,882 (114,015)	1.56 (1.57)	72.9 (73.4)
Totals	60,938 (61,115)	16,749,384 (16,936,056)	65,179 (66,293)	115,926 (120,284)	246,284 (252,870)	1.47 (1.49)	57.5 (56.3)

(Note) 1 By law, a worker with severe physical or intellectual disabilities is counted as two persons for statistical purposes; consequently the figures in column A represent double counts.

2 Figures in parentheses are as of 1 June 2001.

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

2 Current Employment Situation for Disabled Persons in National and Local Public Organizations

(Figures are as of 1 June 2002)

Classification	Number of Employees (not including exempt employees)	Numbers of Persons with Disabilities			Employment Rate $C \div A \times 100$
		A. Persons with Severe Disabilities (Regular)	B. Disabled Persons Other Than Those Who Have Severe Disabilities (Regular)	C. Total $A \times 2 + B$	
	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons	%
National Organizations	514,139 (522,561)	1,563 (1,636)	7,887 (7,923)	11,013 (11,195)	2.14 (2.14)
Prefectural Organizations	324,310 (329,837)	1,897 (1,917)	4,200 (4,244)	7,994 (8,078)	2.46 (2.45)
Municipal Organizations	868,992 (879,762)	5,186 (5,242)	10,792 (11,128)	21,164 (21,612)	2.44 (2.46)
Boards of Education	573,430 (581,361)	1,888 (1,889)	3,272 (3,318)	7,048 (7,096)	1.23 (1.22)
Total	2,280,871 (2,313,521)	10,534 (10,684)	26,151 (26,613)	47,219 (47,981)	2.07 (2.07)

- (Note)
- 1 The numbers of persons with severe physical or intellectual disabilities in column A represent double counts.
 - 2 The employment rate stipulated by law for national and local public organizations is 2.1%, and the rate for boards of education is 2.0%.
 - 3 Figures in parentheses are as of 1 June 2001.

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare