

**Annual Report on
Government Measures for
Persons with Disabilities
(Summary)
2004**

**Cabinet Office
Japan**

Measures taken for persons with disabilities (Focused on FY2003)

Measures taken for persons with disabilities, particularly those implemented in FY2003, are classified in line with the provisions set out in “Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (December 2002)”.

(The principal measures taken, with a particular focus
on the new measures in FY2003, are as follows.)

Part I. Comprehensive approach to measures for persons with disabilities

The Government as a whole shall promote measures for persons with disabilities mainly by the “Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities” headed by Prime Minister.

To steadily implement various measures set out in “Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities” and “Five-Year Plan for Implementation of Priority Measures” starting from FY2003 in close collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies.

To provide guidance and support through prefectural governments so that all the municipal governments can establish the programme for persons with disabilities according to the fact that the rate of establishing the programme for persons with disabilities is 100% in all the prefectural governments and designated cities, and 91.4% in municipal governments except designated cities.

【Principal measures implemented】

In order to promote measures for persons with disabilities comprehensively and effectively, the “Working Group of Directors on Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities” was newly established under the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities for the purpose of strengthening the system of implementing measures in collaboration with relevant administrative agencies.

For the purpose of promoting comprehensive measures for persons with disabilities at local levels, the “Regional Conference on Promotion of Measures for Persons with Disabilities” was held for the first time so that people working for regional public service sectors for persons with disabilities, such as welfare, employment, support for

special education, construction, civil engineering and transportation, could get together to exchange their views.

Part II. Mutual understanding and exchange

Section 1. Raise awareness to deepen people's understanding of persons with disabilities

To raise awareness in order to deepen people's understanding of persons with disabilities through such events as "Day of Persons with Disabilities" and "Week of Persons with Disabilities."

To promote welfare education through school education and raising of awareness for local residents, promotion of public service providers' understanding of persons with disabilities and promotion of volunteer activities.

【Principal measures implemented】

In order to help all levels of people to understand mental disorder properly and take a new step forward, the "Panel to Spread the Proper Understanding of Mental Problems" prepared and announced the report of "Declaration of Barrier-Free for Mental Disorder" in March 2004.

"Programme for Promotion of Various Activities" was implemented for the purpose of contributing to promotion of volunteer activities, and outcome of the experiences was disseminated as a model for other schools through holding the meetings at regional level.

In April 2003, Certified NPO (nonprofit organizations) system was extended through deregulating requirements for accreditation and introducing regarded contribution system, as well as establishing and announcing the "Policies for Operation of Law for NPO (established in March 2003 and revised in December 2003), and application and notification for authorization system of NPOs in electronic format was implemented.

Section 2. International cooperation appropriate for international status of Japan

To promote international cooperation in the field of measures for persons with disabilities through providing grant aid for constructing facilities and technical assistance through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

To contribute positively to preparation of the draft convention as one of the Working Group members of the Asian group in the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

【Principal measures implemented】

A total of 79 projects were implemented with Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, including a project to construct facilities for orphan children with disabilities in Thailand.

Japan contributed 54,000 US dollars to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and about 175,000 US dollars to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Part III. Establishing the base for independence and participation in the society

Section 1. Education and nurturing for children with disabilities

To implement instruction at schools for blind children, schools for deaf children and schools for children with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and health impairments, and special classes and resource rooms in elementary and lower secondary schools through special curriculums, education services for small-group classes, textbooks prepared with special consideration, teachers with specialized knowledge and experiences, and special facilities and equipment in order to provide specific education services in accordance with conditions of disabilities.

To establish educational support system for children with severe and multiple disabilities, Learning Disabilities (LD) and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD), as well as taking into account the composition of classes and number of teachers.

To promote remedial training in welfare facilities and the system of remedial training in the local community.

To promote research and development on enhancement of teachers' leadership and special support education at school, such as securing expertise of teachers and improving the teachers' license system.

To promote social and employment independence for children with disabilities through supporting their attendance for higher education, providing learning opportunities in the local community, and supporting their family.

To promote accessible school facilities and equipment.

【Principal measures implemented】

Medical care system at schools for children with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and health impairments was established through contracting the "Project to Improve Medical Care System at Schools for Children with Intellectual Disabilities, Physical Disabilities and Health Impairments" to 32 prefectural governments.

In January 2004, the "Draft Guidelines for Establishment of Education Support System for Children with Learning Disabilities(LD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and High-Functioning Autism" was prepared for the purpose of utilizing it for improving support system at education boards and schools.

With regard to the principles for accessible school facilities, "Guidelines for Promotion of Measures for Accessible School Facilities" was established in March 2004.

Section 2. Measures for employment promotion

To provide instructions to private enterprises and national and local governments that have not yet achieved required employment rate for employing more than certain amount of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities in accordance with "Law for Employment Promotion, etc. of Persons with Disabilities".

To expand job categories in accordance with ability and expertise of persons with

disabilities through establishing a manual for employment of persons with disabilities, utilizing special subsidiary system, providing subsidies to private enterprises and revising conditions for disqualification for persons with disabilities.

To promote various types of employment and work accessible to persons with disabilities as well as promoting employment and work at home by utilizing information technology and supporting for running new businesses.

To promote vocational rehabilitation, focused on collaboration with institutions involved in health, welfare, and education through Public Employment Security Offices, Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities, Employment and Living Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities and Employment Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities.

To support a transition to employment through trial employment and short-term job aptitude training.

To promote human resources development of persons with disabilities through admitting them to general human resources development facilities and providing them with vocational training at human resources development centers for the disabled.

【Principal measures implemented】

The exclusion rate system as relief measure for alleviating the required employment rate has been reduced by 10 % points regardless of job categories since 1st April 2004. In addition the exclusion personnel system for national and local governments was limited to some job categories and the relief rate was reduced to be transferred to the exclusion rate system.

Subsidy system for alleviating employers' economic burden in employing persons with disabilities funded by levies has been expanding its scope of the subsidy system since April 2003 to include persons who suffered mental disease while working and persons with mental disease whose working hours was more than 15 hours and less than 20 hours a week.

25 Japanese athletes participated in the 6th International Abilympics held in India.

Part IV. Building the foundations for daily life

Section 1. Measures for securing livelihood for persons with disabilities

With regard to welfare services for persons with disabilities, establishing a user-oriented life support system through a shift to a new user-oriented system (the assistance benefit supply system), accessible consulting support system and promotion of protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

To promote measures for independence and social participation of persons with disabilities through steady implementation of in-home care services like home help services and day services, and securing of housing like group homes.

To support economic independence of persons with disabilities through securing their income by disability pension and support for appropriate management of individual property by utilizing Guardianship System for the Adults.

To restructure the facilities services as the basis for community life, such as promotion of utilization of the facilities in the community.

To promote sports, recreation, and cultural activities by holding various kinds of sport games.

To promote research and development on welfare equipment and dissemination as well as supporting the utilization.

To train such welfare professionals as certified social workers and certified care workers, and such rehabilitation professionals as physical therapists and occupational therapists.

【Principal measures implemented】

Since April 2004 welfare services for persons and children with physical or intellectual disabilities has been changed from a measure-oriented system under which administrative governments specify the recipients of services and decide on the nature of services to a new user-oriented system (“assistance benefit supply system”) under which persons with disabilities, on an equal footing with the service provider, select

and utilize the services by the contract.

In May 2003, the Headquarters for Mental Health and Welfare Measures (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) prepared an interim report on the future direction of measures to be taken which said that realization, if conditions were met, of early deinstitutionalization of persons with mental disorders might be taken into consideration, in accordance with promotion of spread and education (promotion of people's understanding of persons with mental disorders), reform of mental health (enhancement of the quality of medical treatment through functional segmentation of psychiatric beds and establishment of a community care system, including emergency care system), and community life support (securing housing, promotion of employment support, improvement of consulting institutions).

According to the full enforcement of the Law of the Assistance Dog of Persons with Physical Disabilities in October 2003, managers of such facilities for public use as hotels and department stores, shall in principle accept persons with disabilities accompanied by certified assistance dog.

ISO/IEC Guide 71, a set of guidelines to address the needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, was established as Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) in June 2003.

The 3rd National Sports Games for Persons with Disabilities was held in Shizuoka Prefecture in Japan.

Equipment of text-to-speech reading for persons with visual disabilities and equipment of receiving information for persons with hearing disabilities became assistive items for daily life supplied by the public.

Section 2. Measures for health and medical care

To promote measures for school safety and measures for prevention of industrial accidents, in addition to prevention, early detection and treatment of diseases that cause disability through the improvement of health checkup and health guidance.

To provide medical treatment, medical rehabilitation and health instructions for disability

as well as early detection of disability.

To provide early detection and intervention of mental disorder through promotion of measures for mental health and health services in the community.

To promote research and development for the purpose of preventing disabilities and establishing fundamental methods of treatment.

【Principal measures implemented】

Health Promotion Law came into force in May 2003 as the legal basis for supporting “National Health Promotion in the 21st Century(Healthy Japan 21)”, improving health and preventing lifestyle-related diseases.

Since FY 2003, the specific disease treatment research program (funding system for the expenditure of medical care for 45 intractable diseases) has been revised. For low-income persons in case of municipal inhabitant’s tax for breadwinner of the patient is exempted, public fund bears all co-payment portion in the medical insurance system, and other patients are also supported as public fund bears partially in light of the level of their income and their treatment conditions.

In January 2004, “Panel for Depression in the Community” established a manual for people’s understanding, detection and proper intervention of depression.

In July 2003, “Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases Under the Condition of Insanity or Quasi-insanity” was established. The purpose of this Act is to improve conditions of disorder, to prevent relevant acts and to promote social rehabilitation of persons who have caused serious cases to others while they were under the condition of insanity or quasi-insanity through ensuring continuous and appropriate medical care as well as providing necessary treatment and instruction.

Part V. Building the foundations for comfortable living environments

Section 1. Measures for comfortable living environments for persons with disabilities

To promote accessible public housing to persons with disabilities and accessible physical environment for public use such as government buildings and facilities.

To promote such accessible public transport as passenger terminals and trains as well as accessible walking space.

To promote establishment of traffic signals taken into account persons with disabilities and traffic road environments accessible to persons with disabilities for the purpose of ensuring safety and accessibility of persons with disabilities.

To promote specific measures for vulnerable persons including persons with disabilities who need to be assisted in case of disaster in various situations such as disseminating knowledge of preventing disaster, providing disaster information and instructing emergency evacuation.

To promote specific measures for removing difficulties in having access to the police as well as measures for preventing crime against persons with disabilities.

【Principal measures implemented】

In order to further promote accessibility to physical environments, amended Heart Building Law containing that 1) expanding application to specific buildings, 2) setting requirements for application of accessibility standards to construction of special and specific buildings, 3) adding repair and remodeling of specific facilities to the list of requirements, 4) expanding support measures for certified physical environments, and 5) delegating mandate to responsible administrative governments (municipal governors who set constructing managers) came into force on 1st April 2003.

“Standard Specification for Next-Generation Non-step Bus” was established in March 2003, and a certification system that checks whether a non-step bus complies with the standard specification was established in January 2004.

In order to establish accessible society where all persons including persons with disabilities have an easy access to their living disabilities to their living environments, accessible equipment for traffic safety like traffic lights and pedestrian roads, as one of the most important pillars for promoting accessible walking space, was established in

accordance with “Infrastructure Development Priority Program” starting from FY 2003.

In order to make transportation more accessible to elderly persons and persons with physical disabilities, the system was revised in FY 2003 so that paid transportation system could be operated voluntarily by NPOs as well as promoting dissemination of welfare taxi.

In July 2003, “Task Force on Sharing Disaster-Prevention Information” attached to the Central Disaster Prevention Council prepared a report containing that 1) providing information in such accessible format as optic, vibration or text to persons who have difficulties in collecting information in case of emergency, 2) providing information as quickly as possible so that vulnerable persons who need to be assisted in case of disaster can react in good time, and 3) establishing the system of appropriately responding to an emergency call by e-mail sent from vulnerable persons who need to be assisted in case of disaster.

Section 2. Measures for secured livelihood for persons with disabilities

To promote accessible information in order to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy adequately benefits of utilizing information technology through research and development on equipment and system taken into account availability of persons with disabilities and accessible web sites.

To promote enhancement of providing information through establishing information network, creating video programme with closed-caption and expanding television programme with closed-caption.

【Principal measures implemented】

“IT Support Center for Persons with Disabilities” has been in operation as a comprehensive service center for supporting volunteers who advise persons with disabilities how to use personal computers, advising specialized users of personal computers and providing relevant information.

Japan Industrial Standards (JIS) in respect of “common guidelines (in the field of information and telecommunications)”, “information processing units” and “web sites”

was established by systemizing in accordance with such standards as “Accessibility Guidelines for Information Processing Units for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People”.

CD-ROM containing system of checking and revising web sites developed for accessible web sites to anyone including persons with disabilities and elderly people has been distributed to the local governments.

System has been developed to subtitle automatically almost all the canned programmes in a short time, even when a text-format manuscript is not available.

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 | 258.4 | 223.9 | 34.5 |
| Total | 655.9 | 589.5 | 66.4 |

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,
and Children Provided Special Instructions at Resource Rooms**

(Figures are as of 1st 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 Special Classes | Elementary and Lower Secondary Schools Resource Rooms | Total |
|---|--|--|--|---|--------------|
| 3,882 | 6,705 | 83,526 | 85,933 | 33,652 | 216,058 |

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

Employment Rates Stipulated by Law and Actual Employment

Rates of Persons with Disabilities

(As of 1st June 2003)

| | | Employment rate Stipulated by law | Actual Employment rate |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Private Enterprises | General private Enterprises | 1.8% | 1.485% (1.47%) |
| | Government-affiliated organizations in certain categories | 2.1% | 2.09% (1.96%) |
| National government and local governments | National Organizations | 2.1% | 2.19% (2.14%) |
| | Prefectural Organizations | | 2.49% (2.46%) |
| | Municipal Organizations | | 2.45% (2.44%) |
| | Prefectural Board of educations | 2.0% | 1.24% (1.23%) |

Figures in parentheses are as of 1st June 2002

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare