

FY2009 Initiatives for Measures for Persons with Disabilities

I Summary of Measures for Persons with Disabilities

1 Systematic Reform Efforts Regarding Persons with Disabilities

Vigorous inquiries are being made into Japan's measures for persons with disabilities by the "Committee for Disability Policy Reform" (hereafter called the "Committee") under the "Ministerial Board for Disability Policy Reform" (hereafter called the "Ministerial Board"), created in December, 2009 by the Cabinet Office for the purpose of reforming measures geared toward persons with disabilities (persons with disabilities themselves and/or their families).

The Ministerial Board was established by Cabinet decision on December 8th, 2009 with the Prime Minister as the head, the Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister of State for Measures for Persons with Disabilities, Cabinet Office as assistant leaders and all other ministers of state as Ministerial Board members, thereby disbanding the previous "Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities" (hereafter called the "Former Headquarters"). The Ministerial Board was established to carry out intensive reforms of systems concerning the persons with disabilities of our country, starting with the creation of domestic laws necessary for the establishment of the treaty relative to the rights of persons with disabilities (a tentative name—hereafter called "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CRPD"); to secure close cooperation between the administrative organizations concerned; to establish the coming five years as an intensive reform period regarding disability system, a period during which comprehensive and efficient promotion of disability measures will be planned; to draw up and promote overall adjustments relating to the promotion of the reform and to bills of the fundamental policies of the reform, and to carry out studies related to what the social marker of "disability" should be, etc.

A committee was established based upon this report in January of 2010 (based on a decision of the Head of the Ministerial Board on Disability Reforms on December 15th, 2009). So that persons with disabilities can contribute constructively to the debate with their opinions, persons with disabilities made up more than half of the committee panel (14 out of 24). With summer of 2010 as a goal and taking into account the debates of the committee and the considerations discussed at the headquarter, the Cabinet will make decisions regarding the fundamental policies of the Systematic Disability Reform.

The adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the United Nations is an important backdrop to our study, which aims for systemic reforms regarding the persons with disabilities in our country. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was approved during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly of the UN in December of 2006, after a total of eight Ad Hoc Committee sessions, meetings established by a General Assembly decision in 2001 with the aim of investigating a comprehensive and inclusive international convention that would facilitate and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. This Convention was released for signature on March 30th, 2007 and our country signed it in September of that year. The Convention was put into effect in May of 2008.



Committee for Disability Policy Reform

■ Chart 1 Mechanism for Disability Policy Reform

