

II Mutual Understanding and Exchange

1 Enlightenment and Raising Public Awareness

In order to promote the realization of a "Cohesive Society" as described in the Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities and to promote the diffusion of its ideas, the public understanding of disabilities and persons with disabilities has to progress; meanwhile, in order to obtain cooperation from the public in terms of concern for Persons with Disabilities, it is important to actively foster awareness and publicity activities with wide public participation.

Based, among other things, on the Basic Law for Persons with Disabilities, enlightenment and public information activities are actively being held, with all sorts of events organized intensively around the "Week of Persons with Disabilities" (September 3rd to September 9th) across the entire country by both officials and citizens, this in order to promote public interest in disabilities and persons with disabilities, to deepen public understanding, and to raise the public conscience regarding the participation of persons with disabilities in society.

The government has promoted welfare education, as well as "Joint Activities and Learning" for children with and without disabilities as part of school curricula. Moreover, it has also promoted the public understanding of persons with disabilities through enlightenment and publicity activities for local residents and public service employees, as well as through the promotion of volunteer activities.

【Main Measures, etc.】

- In the New Five-year Program, because the enlightenment and awareness-raising of young people who will shoulder the burden in the future is crucial, the target awareness rate of the "Cohesive Society" among people in their 20s was set to the same rate, 50%, as that of all other generations.

- "Spirit-enhancing Events to Better Understand Persons with Disabilities" were held, such as collecting and giving awards for "Composition on the Experiences that widened the Circle of Hearts" and "Poster for the Week of the Persons with Disabilities," writing experiences about the intermingling of minds with persons with disabilities from primary and secondary school pupils across the entire country. Compilations of winning essays and posters were made and distributed in primary, secondary and high schools across the country, etc., promoting a better public understanding of persons with disabilities.

- During fiscal 2009's "Week of Persons with Disabilities" in Tokyo, on December 3rd a "Week of Persons with Disabilities' Gathering" was held. An Awards ceremony for "Composition on the experiences that widened the circle of hearts " and "Posters for the Week of the Persons with Disabilities," as well as the reading aloud of winning essays, was organized. A symposium on the theme "Raising Children with Disabilities in All Regions" was also held. Finally, a "Series of Seminars of the "Week of Persons with Disabilities" was organized for related organizations and others to exchange ideas on all sorts of themes related to persons with disabilities.



Fiscal 2009 "Convention regarding the Week of Persons with Disabilities"

- Symposiums were organized for panel discussions where people with every type of disability could talk about their thoughts and various experiences in their daily lives: in Oita—under the sponsorship of Oita Prefecture—on the theme "The Ban of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"; in Sapporo—under the sponsorship of Hokkaido Prefecture—on the theme "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Building Local Areas Where it is Easy for Persons with Disabilities to Live." Other than that, panel exhibitions displaying, for example, "Posters of the Week of Persons with Disabilities" were held in six locations around the country (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Nagano, Wakayama, Tottori, and Hiroshima).
- In Osaka—under the patronage of the Cabinet and of the Kansai Economic Federation—a symposium organized by local NGOs dealing with support for persons with disabilities was held on the theme "Building a Society that Supports the Independence and Employment of Persons with Disabilities." Beyond that, the State and regional public bodies as well as related NGOs actively held events of their own such as enlightenment and publicity events, beginning with NHK's "Heart Exhibition" and "Barrier-free" demonstrations organized by regional transportation bureaus.

- Enlightenment and publicity activities designed to forge a better understanding of disabilities were held during the "Month for Supporting Employment of Persons with Disabilities" (September), the "Mental Health and Welfare Promotion Activities" (October 5th to 11th) and "Human Rights Week" (December 4th to 10th).
- In December of 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution during the third council declaring April 2nd as "World Autism Awareness Day." Given that, under the patronage of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Japan Autism Society, a symposium was organized on April 2nd for promoting the diffusion in Japan of a proper understanding of developmental disabilities, beginning with autism.



Speech of Mr. Hosogawa, Senior Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, on World Autism Awareness Day (2010)

- From the point of view of promoting comprehensive and efficient "barrier-free universal design" in terms of both infrastructural and human resources and in order to ensure that everybody, including persons with disabilities, are able to lead peaceable lives in society, the Prime Minister Award was established for, among other things, recognizing meritorious service and notable contributions of organizations and individuals to the promotion of "barrier-free universal design."
In fiscal 2009, 10 organizations were recognized.
- The Cabinet Office uploaded videos, sound, sign language and a word summary of the "Committee for Disability Reform" through the Cabinet Office homepage. Also the document for the conference was uploaded on the homepage before the conference began.
- The Courses of Study have been partly and prioritized from April 2009. In their content they promote volunteer activities in schools: for example, experiential activities as volunteer works in General Provisions and Special Activities.

- In order to rear leaders who will become the central pillars of social activities and build a "cohesive society," the Cabinet Office created "Core Leader Education Programs for Participation of Youth in Society." In fiscal 2009, eight young people were dispatched to Finland and a total of twelve young leaders were invited to Japan from the UK, Finland and Germany in fields related to persons with disabilities.

2 International Cooperation

As one of the basic policies of the Japanese government's foreign assistance and development program—which seeks to maintain an impartiality that includes the consideration of persons with disabilities —broad technical cooperation is being employed through the dispatching abroad of both young cooperative units and of specialists, through the welcoming of foreign researchers, and through grant aids for the establishment of rehabilitation facilities and vocational training facilities for persons with disabilities.

In December of 2006 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, which was signed by our country in September of 2007.

【Main Measures, etc.】

- In terms of assistance loans, projects both promoting "barrier-free" in railway facilities, university campus facilities, etc. and taking into consideration the use of these facilities by persons with disabilities are being supported. In fiscal year 2009, six projects related to the consideration of persons with disabilities were chosen for support.
- In terms of grant aids, cooperative projects such as the establishment of rehabilitation and vocational training facilities for persons with disabilities and gifts of mini-buses for transportation are supported. In fiscal 2009, thanks to the cooperation of the Grassroots Human Security grant aid, 49 projects supporting persons with disabilities have been carried out by NGOs, education structures, regional public organizations, etc.
- Technical cooperation is broadly employed through privately administered international cooperation structures: for example, the welcoming of foreign researchers and the dispatching specialists. In terms of technical cooperation projects, in fiscal 2009 the Malaysian "Service Project for Supporting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Society" and the Bolivian "Phase Two Program for the Statistical Registration of Disabled Persons in the Country" were launched.
- Concerning the support given by Japanese NGOs, thanks to grant aids given by mutually cooperative Japanese NGOs, seven projects related to Persons with disabilities were supported in fiscal 2009.

- Fundraising for the United Nations Disability Fund goes on continually, raising about a half-million dollars in fiscal 2008. In terms of cooperation within the Asian and Pacific regions, support for the activities of ESCAP is administered by the Japan ESCAP Cooperation Fund (JECF) and amounted to about 1,6 million dollars in aid during fiscal 2009.

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was approved by consensus during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in December of 2006. Japan signed it in September of 2007. The Convention went into effect on May 3rd, 2008. Today, the necessary work is being pursued in order to realize the convention as soon as possible.

■ Chart 7 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Contents)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Contents

(Note) The contents below are not decided and may change in the progress in presenting it to the Diet.

Preamble	Article 28 · Adequate standard of living and social protection
Article 1 · Purpose	Article 29 · Participation in political and public life
Article 2 · Definitions	Article 30 · Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
Article 3 · General principles	Article 31 · Statistics and data collection
Article 4 · General obligations	Article 32 · International cooperation
Article 5 · Equality and non-discrimination	Article 33 · National implementation and monitoring
Article 6 · Women with disabilities	Article 34 · Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Article 7 · Children with disabilities	Article 35 · Reports by States Parties
Article 8 · Awareness-raising	Article 36 · Consideration of reports
Article 9 · Accessibility	Article 37 · Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee
Article 10 · Right to life	Article 38 · Relationship of the Committee with other bodies
Article 11 · Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies	Article 39 · Report of the Committee
Article 12 · Equal recognition before the law	Article 40 · Conference of States Parties
Article 13 · Access to justice	Article 41 · Depositary
Article 14 · Liberty and security of person	Article 42 · Signature
Article 15 · Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment punishment	Article 43 · Consent to be bound
Article 16 · Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse	Article 44 · Regional integration organizations
Article 17 · Protecting the integrity of the person	Article 45 · Entry into force
Article 18 · Liberty of movement and nationality	Article 46 · Reservations
Article 19 · Living independently and being included in the community	Article 47 · Amendments
Article 20 · Personal mobility	Article 48 · Denunciation
Article 21 · Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information	Article 49 · Accessible format
Article 22 · Respect for privacy	Article 50 · Authentic texts
Article 23 · Respect for home and the family	Afterword
Article 24 · Education	
Article 25 · Health	
Article 26 · Habilitation and rehabilitation	
Article 27 · Work and employment	