

the Great East Japan Disaster.

1 Measures to Secure Information and Communication for Persons with Disabilities

In order to correct the discrepancies in opportunities for persons with disabilities to use information and communication technology, research and development concerning information and telecommunications equipment and systems that respond to the needs of persons with disabilities have been promoted. Meanwhile, there are also efforts under way to distribute such equipment and systems: an accessibility guideline was created; the compliance with JIS and international standards was improved along with the accessibility of web sites, etc.

The diffusion of information to persons with disabilities is being enhanced through the promotion of Telework, the strengthening of the information network, the upgrading of the system that provides information through the production of video materials with subtitles, etc, and the promotion of subtitled broadcasting, etc. Meanwhile, the framework of communications support for persons with disabilities has been strengthened through the promotion of sign language and Braille transcription, as well as through the standardization of pictures and communicative symbols.

【Main Measures】

- Local livelihood support groups administer "IT support centers for persons with disabilities" that act as bases for all services of IT-related organizations with the goal of expanding the use of information and communication technology by persons with disabilities. A "task force on comprehensive development of IT for the persons with disabilities" was created, comprehensively and uniformly enforcing measures related to IT such as the training and dispatching of "PC volunteers."

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications organized the "Study group on Ensuring/Improving Accessibility in the Public Sector." In December 2005, this study group issued an application model, called "operational models to improve accessibility of public websites," for the concrete maintenance and improvement of web accessibility. Later in August of 2010, a reform of the web contents occurred. Furthermore, in fiscal 2010, a revision of this application

model is scheduled, based on the standardization movement of recent years.

- According to the “New Information Distribution Technology Action Plan Display,” by fiscal year 2015, in order to achieve the goal of placing 7,000,000 Telework units in households around the country, pertinent departments collaborated together to help spread awareness and help promote environmental preparations for Telework.

- In fiscal year 2009, "Naiiv Net," an online inventory system of Braille data, books in Braille and audio books managed primarily by the social-welfare association Japan Braille Library, was combined with "Biblio Net," a network distribution system of books in Braille and audio books, to form "Sapie," a new comprehensive information network for hearing-and visually-impaired people that offers more familiar information about books in Braille, audio books, etc.

- In January of 2009, based on the deliberations of the Cultural Council Copyright Subcommittee, a report was put together to take immediate and sufficient measures to secure access to information for persons with disabilities. In March of the same year, a proposition to revise the copyright law containing the content of this report was put together and submitted to the regular session of the 2009 parliament. This act was voted and passed on June 12th, 2009 and went into effect on January 1st, 2010.

- The Criminal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Justice distributed a revised version of the DVD entitled "If You become the Victim of a Crime," which explains the system of protection and support for crime victims provided by public prosecutors offices to crime victims, their families and the general public in an easy-to-understand way, to all public prosecutors offices.

- From October of 2006 to March of 2007, “Research Institute on Broadcasting to Hearing and Visual Impairments in the Digital Age” was held; at which, the administrative guidelines to increase the use of subtitles in broadcasting proposed in 1997, and the guidelines to “Increase the Spread of Broadcasting for the Hearing and Visual Impaired Policy” were drafted. Its aim is to increase the spread of audio descriptions in broadcasting. Accordingly, the plan is to have all programs broadcast up until the year 2017 to include subtitles and for 10% of

them to include audio descriptions.

- Based on the Act to Facilitate the Usage of Communication and Broadcast Systems by Persons with Physical Disabilities and to Enhance Their Convenience for Persons with Physical Disabilities,” the independently-administered National Institute of Information and Communication Technology offers assistance toward the expenses of producing subtitled programs, etc. In fiscal year 2012, a subsidy budget of four hundred million yen was configured to support these efforts. However, in comparison with subtitle broadcasts, progress on explanatory broadcasts and sign language broadcasting is still in need of support; as such the government is working to promote such support efforts along with the other efforts previously mentioned.

- Police departments nationally are working at securing videos with super-imposed subtitles to be used during workshops, as well as providing sign language interpreters for persons with hearing-impairments.