

Chapter 6 Establishment of Foundations for Daily Life

1 Measures for Stability of Life

As for measures for disability health care and welfare, necessary revisions to each of the categories of physical disability, intellectual disability and mental disability have been made, focusing on “Regional Living Support,” which supports independent living for persons with disabilities in communities where they live, working toward to build of systems to provide services mainly through the municipalities that are most familiar to the inhabitants. The “Services and Supports For Persons with Disabilities Act” was established as an integrated system that includes persons with mental disability who have not been included within the scope of the “Assistance Benefit Supply System” in addition to persons with physical and intellectual disabilities. Also, in order to respond to issues including deinstitutionalization and job assistance and for persons with disabilities, and to enable them to live independent daily and social lives, drastic reconsideration of welfare facilities and project schemes was carried out to be able to receive necessary welfare services, consultation support and the like for persons with disabilities.

Afterwards, discussions toward performing measures including provision of support without any gaps in the system and development of regional living support schemes on the basis of individual needs were held, and in August 2011, the so-called “Framework Proposal” concerning the said systemic reform was compiled. Based on this Framework Proposal, the “Act on Development of Relevant Acts to Take New Measures for Disability Healthcare and Welfare toward the Realization of Coexistence in Regional Society,” including the determination to reform the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act into the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, was enacted, and became effective on April 1, 2013 (part of the Act became effective on April 1, 2014).

In addition, even before the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities became effective, according to the partial revision of the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act and the Child Welfare Act, in order to enhance support for the lives of persons with disabilities in communities, the ability-to-pay principle has been applied to the burden to the user and the strengthening of support for children with disabilities and enhancement of consultation support have been conducted in order to enhance support for the lives of persons with disabilities in communities.

[Main Measures]

- Upon the “Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities” coming into effect in FY 2013, it was determined that patients suffering from intractable diseases should be included in the scope of welfare services for persons with disabilities. As for diseases included in the scope of the system, diseases that have been included in the scope of Dwelling Living Support Projects are included in the scope of the system as an immediate step. In the future, the scope is to be reconsidered based on discussions concerning the scope of grants for medical expenses and the like.
- Upon the partial revision of the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act coming into effect in December 2010, it was determined that support for community transition and support for settlement in communities should be provided as individual provisions and deinstitutionalization for persons with disabilities is being further promoted. With a view to widely provide support for persons who need support for deinstitutionalization, persons with disabilities in facilities including protection facilities and correctional facilities in addition to persons with disabilities in institution or psychiatric hospitals are to be included within the scope of support

for community transition from April 1, 2014.

- As for the Five-year Plan to Double Wages, which terminated in FY 2011, a new Three-year Plan to Raise Wages was formulated for 2012. Efforts have been made focusing on the efforts from past programs that had been relatively effective, including the utilization of business management methods by consultants, and the strengthening efforts of each factory to prepare a “Program to Raise Wages” and strengthening cooperation between prefectures and associations to increase joint order acceptance has been conducted.
- With a view to implementing the development of well-planned service provision systems for the future in order for persons with disabilities to receive necessary services, the “Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities” prescribes that municipalities and prefectures shall formulate programs for disability welfare that list numerical targets, the expected amount of services in accordance with the basic guidelines the national government specifies. Based on the “Arrangement of Discussions on Promotion of Lives of Persons with Disabilities in Communities” (report by Meetings on Promotion of Lives of Persons with Disabilities in Communities on October 11, 2013), the provisions are developed including specifying the direction to develop the bases where functions necessary for regional living support for persons with disabilities.
- The “Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities” prescribes to provide training to foster and utilize human resources so that can appropriately perform the tasks of guardianship, curatorship and assistance, guardianship support projects for juridical persons in the adult guardianship system shall be specified as essential items of Regional Living Support Projects of municipalities. In addition to this, the Act imposes an obligation of designated businesses sectors for welfare services for persons with disabilities to provide services, while taking into account decision-making support for persons with disabilities and taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities at all times.
- “Liaison Meetings on Networks for Watching Elderly Consumers and Consumers with Disabilities” where members of associations of elderly persons, administrative agencies, in addition to associations of persons with disabilities, are serving as members have been held since January 2007. The objective is the prevention of consumer troubles for elderly persons and persons with disabilities; information on consumer troubles has been shared and a scheme that provides information including information on way of dishonest business practices and ways to cope with them, by compiling summaries of agreement at each meeting. The 8th Liaison Meeting on Networks for Watching Elderly Consumers and Consumers with Disabilities, held in June 2013, resulted in a mutual agreement to take actions including “to disseminate information in order to prevent consumer problem for elderly persons and persons with disabilities” and “looking out to prevent consumer problem through close cooperation among various entities.”

Afterwards, updates on matters that had been mutual agreed were reported at the 9th of the said Liaison Meetings, held in December of the same year. On the basis of the summary of the said report, the National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan is providing supports, such as e-mail newsletters and website articles which include information on dishonest business practices, for looking out for persons with disabilities and persons around them. Additionally, based on the “Proposal on

Promotion of Systems Development for Regional Consumer Administrations” (August 6, 2013) (the Consumer Commission), a meeting for “the Ideal Way Regional Systems Should Be To Ensure the Consumers Safety And Reliability” was held and reports were published.

- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is developing and enhancing systems for regional cooperation among entities, as an effort toward abuse prevention for persons with disabilities in Regional Living Support Projects. Also the ministry is supporting prefectures and municipalities that provide home visits for persons with disabilities who have been abused in the past, training relating to abuse prevention for persons with disabilities and analysis of cases of abuse.
- It is expected that in the future, due to the fact that persons with disabilities will keep aging and the degree of disabilities will become more severe, more persons with disabilities who need nursing care will begin to occupy group homes and more cases persons with disabilities need nursing care after occupying group homes. The Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities redefined previously categorized care homes into the category of group homes, and group homes have been classified into two types, those “Inclusive of Nursing Care Services,” which provide nursing care as group homes, and those “Using Outside Services,” which utilize outside contractors for in-home nursing care, since April 1, 2014. Also, the creation of “Satellite Housing,” which utilizes a room in an ordinary apartment under certain set conditions, has enabled to provide more flexible services.
- Pursuant to the Act on Support for Persons with Developmental Disorders, in order to develop consistent support systems that cover each phase in life from infancy to adulthood for persons with developmental disorders, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has conducted “Projects for Development of Support Systems for Persons with Developmental Disorders” from FY 2005. And since FY 2013, these Projects have been included in Regional Living Support Projects and specified as “Development of Support Systems for Persons with Developmental Disorders.”
- The Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, which became effective in April 2013, prescribes that in order to encourage the independence and social participation of persons with visual or hearing disabilities through Regional Living Support Projects, “Projects for Education and Training for Interpreters and Assistance Workers for Blind and Deaf Persons” and “Projects on Dispatching Interpreters and Assistance Workers for Blind and Deaf Persons,” which provide support for communication and traveling shall be specified as essential items of services provided from prefectures. Also, persons including patients suffering from intractable diseases are to be included in the definition of persons with disabilities and included in the scope of welfare services for persons with disabilities. These persons including patients suffering from intractable diseases, regardless of whether or not they have physical disability certificates, have come to be able to use welfare services for persons with disabilities approved by municipalities (for children with disabilities, support for children with disabilities on the basis of the Child Welfare Act), after procedures including recognition of classification of disability levels as necessary.
- Income security for persons with disabilities plays a vitally important role in encouraging the economic independence of persons with disabilities. There are

systems for basic disability pensions and employees' disability pensions (disability mutual aid pensions), and there are extra expense because of disability, various allowance systems to support these burdens. Trust systems to support persons with particular disabilities had previously included only persons with severe disabilities within their scope since their establishment. But based on the change of situation surrounding persons with disabilities and the fact that even persons with intermediate disabilities also suffer from difficulty in their daily social lives, from 2013, the trust newly included persons with intermediate and mild intellectual disabilities and persons with mental disabilities in the scope of these systems (maximum amount of exclusion from tax is thirty million yen).

- Each class of people is, year by year, understanding more about and paying more attention to sports played by persons with disabilities. In FY 2013, in Sochi, Russia, the "Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games" were held; 547 athletes from all over the world and 20 athletes and 35 coaches and officials from Japan are participated in.
- Recently, the artists with disabilities as well as artistic performances and exhibitions that persons with disabilities can also enjoy have been increasing in various regions. The "13th Countrywide Art/Culture Festival for Persons with Disabilities - Yamanashi Carnival" (FY 2013) was held in Yamanashi Prefecture in order to deepen public understanding and perception of persons with disabilities and to contribute to the promotion of the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities.
- As for the provision of care goods through public benefits, the project for the provision of expenses for prosthetic devices, equipment for daily life (lending) is available. Since FY 2013, patients suffering from intractable diseases which are defined in the "Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities," have also been included. In addition, consumption tax is not to be imposed on goods that have certain properties, structures, or functions in order to make the goods available for the benefit of the use of persons with physical disabilities.
- In order to promote the development and dissemination of more enhanced care goods, the formulation and standardization of objective evaluation methods and criteria are essential with a view to contribute to quality improvements including safety, to rationalize of production by ensuring compatibility and to provide of appropriate information for the purchasers. Therefore, the standardization of care goods that follow Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) was promoted from FY 2004 to FY 2012 and most major items covered by nursing care insurance have been almost standardized. In FY 2013, there were investigations on goods whose standards needed to be reconsidered from the viewpoint of the specific situation of recently produced products, international conformity and discussions on revised draft plans for equipment including nursing care beds and wheelchairs.

2 Measures on Health Care and Medical Treatment

In addition to performing medical examinations as prevention by early detection of diseases that cause disability, schools are providing safety education through all educational process so that students to respect their own lives and the lives of others, understand necessary safety information in all aspects of daily life and cultivate attitudes and abilities to safe lives.

Also, it is essential to enhance medical services for persons with disabilities and

rehabilitation, to reduce disabilities and promote the independence of persons with disabilities. Based on the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, medical services to reduce or remove physical disabilities (medical services for recovery and medical services for rehabilitation) and continuous medical treatment for mental disabilities (ambulatory medical services for mental health) are specified as medical services for the support of independence of persons with disabilities and the individual payment of these medical expenses for medical services for support for independence is partially or fully supported by the government.

[Main Measures]

- The Hospital of National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities, working toward the early discharge and social life of patients, is providing training to recover one's functions depending on the disability as well as medical social work and psychological support, and the Center also is providing necessary services and information for the promotion of the health of persons with disabilities.
- The government is comprehensively promoting measures against suicide under the "Basic Act for Suicide Prevention" (Act No. 85 of 2006) and "General Principles for Suicide Prevention Policy" based on the said Act and revised the General Principles in August 2012. Also, as for regional measures against suicide, the foundation of the "Fund for the Urgent Strengthening of Regional Suicide Prevention" established in each prefecture for the three years from 2009 through FY 2011 to provide adequate measures in accordance with specific regional situations. Further, in order to strengthen regional measures against suicide, supplementary budgets have also been compiled since FY 2011; also in FY 2013, 1.63 billion yen was further allocated to the said Fund as the first supplementary budget and the funding for the said Fund has been extended to the end of FY 2014.
- Based on "About the Basic Direction for Promotion of Institutional Reform for Persons with Disabilities" endorsed by the Cabinet in June 2010, the "Act Revising the Mental Health and Welfare Act" became effective on June 13, 2013 and was promulgated on the 19th of the same month. This Revising Act includes formulating guidelines to ensuring provision of psychiatric medical services for persons with mental disabilities (public notice by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare), removing the system of person responsible for protection, reconsidering hospitalization for medical care and protection. With a view toward the enforcement of the said Act in April 2014, "Planning Conferences on Guidelines to Ensure Provision of Medical Services for Persons with Mental Disabilities" have been held since July 2013, and based on the drafts of the guidelines discussed at the Conferences, "Guidelines to Ensure Provision of High Quality and Appropriate Medical Services for Persons with Mental Disabilities" were formulated in March 2014.
- In order to establish medical countermeasures including prevention and fundamental remedies for diseases that cause disabilities, research relating to the causes, prevention, early detection, treatment and habilitation for disabilities has been performed. It is essential for methods for establishing prevention and early treatment for disability, forming the basis for measures for children with disabilities, and for promoting these measures comprehensively and in an organized manner. Based on the results of this research, children aged one and a half years, health examinations for children aged three years, inspection for diseases and abnormalities including

inborn errors of metabolism are being provided.

Chapter 7 Building Foundations for Comfortable Living

1 Measures to Build Towns Comfortable for Persons with Disabilities and Measures for Safety and Security of Persons with Disabilities.

The main concept of the “Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons” is universal design, as “Easy-to-use and free-to-use, for anyone in anywhere” This Act prescribes the obligation to conform to the “Basic Policy on Accessibility of Smooth Traveling and Others” in constructing new facilities (passenger facilities, vehicles, roads, off-street car parking lots, urban parks, buildings and the like) and in other matters and obligations imposed on existing facilities to make an effort to conform to the Criteria and promote the adoption of barrier-free design based on the “Basic Policy on Facilitation of Smooth Traveling and Others” which specifies development goals up to the end of FY 2020.

Also, on the basis of the basic plans that municipalities create, prioritized and integrated adoption of barrier-free design is being promoted, and in order to arouse the “Mental Barrier-Free” and deepen public understanding of the promotion of adoption of barrier-free design and to ask for public cooperation in the promotion of the adoption of barrier-free design, “Barrier-free Lecture Class” are being held, which provide a chance to perform care for and experience a simulation of the life of persons including elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and step-by-step, continuous development of measures on barrier-free design is being promoted.

[Main Measures]

- As for all public housing, rental housing belonging to the Urban Renaissance Agency, improved housing, and rental housing belonging to public corporations that are newly constructed, it is specified that barrier-free design as a standard specification, and appropriate accommodation is to be provided according to the mental and physical characteristics of persons with disabilities. Also, existing housing is being rebuilt and improved to promote adoption of barrier-free design.
- In order to form a housing stock considering the use of persons with disabilities, the points to consider in designing housings where they could continue to live even if body function lowers are presented, according to “Guideline on Designing Housing Where the Elderly People Live,” to promote the popularization of the housings considering also persons with disabilities.
- In 2013, the Projects on Promotion of Repair for Housing and Buildings to Make them Energy-saving provided support for renovation for the adoption of barrier-free design performed together with ecological renovations and promoted the concept of making housing barrier-free in addition to making housing energy-saving.
- The “Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons” requires that public transport, buildings, roads, off-street car parking lots and urban parks are to conform the Barrier-free Standards and prescribes that adoption of barrier-free design in living spaces by improving facilities that persons including elderly persons and persons with disabilities use in their daily and social lives. The Act also prescribes that municipalities may specify certain areas as priority development areas where the smoothing of transportation is expected and create basic plans on the prioritized and integrated promotion of projects concerning smooth transportation. Also the Act creates a system to enable persons including elderly persons and persons with disabilities to concretely propose the details of