

Chapter 3 Mutual Understanding and Interaction

1 Awareness-raising

In order to realize the “Cohesive Society” that the “Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Third)” (FY 2013 – FY 2017) promotes, this idea is to be disseminated and public understanding of disability and persons with disabilities is to be promoted, and in order to obtain public cooperation in accommodation for persons with disabilities awareness- raising activities are to be promoted through the participation of a wide range of people.

[Main measures]

- (1) The “Project for Promoting Understanding of Persons with Disabilities to Expand Your Mind’s Connections” is promoted, and students including elementary and junior high students from all over Japan were invited to enter two contests, “Essays on Experiences with Expanding Your Mind’s Connections” for essays written about interactions with persons with disabilities and “Posters for the Week of Persons with Disabilities.” The understanding of persons with disabilities was promoted by various means including preparing collections of these prizewinning works and distributing them to facilities including elementary, junior high and high schools.
- (2) A wide variety of events were carried out in FY 2015 during the “Week of Persons with Disabilities” mainly in Tokyo and every area.
In Tokyo, the “Forum of Persons with Disabilities 2015” was held on December 3, and the best “Essays on the Experiences with Expanding Your Mind’s Connections” and “Posters for the Week of Persons with Disabilities” were honored by the Prime Minister, and a panel discussion on “Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities is finally enforced” was held. A “Seminar Series for the Week of Persons with Disabilities” on various subject matters relating to persons with disabilities was given by different organizations for people with disability, which took turns holding seminars, and lectures and panel discussions and the like were also delivered.
Also, an exhibition of original artwork from the Posters for the Week of Persons with Disabilities and other works was held in Tokyo, and entities including the national government, local governments and concerned private organizations actively conducted awareness raising activities of their own, starting with learning opportunities promoting the adoption of barrier-free environments by Local Transport Bureaus and the like.
- (3) PRs and enlightenment activities to eliminate prejudice and discrimination were carried out: “The month for supporting persons with disabilities” from September 1 to 30, “The 63rd Mental and Welfare Dissemination Campaign” from October 26 to November 1, and “The Human Rights Week” from December 4 to 10.
- (4) On “World Autism Awareness Day” on April 2 and during the “Week of Awareness- raising on Developmental Disorders” from April 2 to April 8, various awareness- raising activities are conducted by entities including the Ministry of

Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), local governments all over Japan and concerned organizations.

- (5) With a view to effectively and comprehensively promoting barrier-free and universal design in both tangible aspects and intangible aspects in order for all persons including persons with disabilities to live comfortable social lives, individuals and associations that have made distinguished achievements or contributions with regard to such promotion are honored by the Prime Minister and Minister of State for Special Missions. In 2015, five associations were honored.
- (6) As for the “Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities,” the entirety of every meeting of the Commission from beginning to end is made available on-demand for a certain period of time on the Internet using videos files, audio files, sign language and written summaries. The materials for each meeting are also posted on the website of the Cabinet Office on the day of each meeting before the meeting starts.
- (7) The police provide training programs including practical training at facilities for persons with disabilities and lectures by academic experts to police officers to deepen the understanding on the characteristics of persons with disabilities and the communication considering their disabilities, from initial training stages at their appointment in police schools and workplaces like police stations.
- (8) For personnel working at correctional institutions including prisons, various types of training are being provided in Training Institute for Correctional Personnel and eight branch institutes; providing on-site practice to learn about nursing care at social welfare facilities and giving lectures on human rights and psychiatry to learn about how to deal persons with disabilities, to improve understanding of persons with disabilities.
- (9) The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) appeal the necessity of understanding and consideration on various human rights problems, including those of persons with disabilities, through workshop for national and local government officials who engage in administration of promoting human rights.
- (10) The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) carried out a virtual-disability experience workshop in its all district offices to improve personnel’s response and office environment. Also, through the training of the personnel around the country, it gives knowledge of how to support persons with disabilities and how to respond with understanding their situations.
- (11) The Cabinet Office implemented the “Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program” to foster leaders who will become the driving force of civil society groups. In FY 2015, the government dispatched eight Japanese youths to U.K., and invited 13 young leaders to Japan from Germany.

U.K. and Austria in the field relevant to persons with disabilities.

2 Global Efforts

It is very effective and important to utilize our country's technologies and experiences in the field of welfare, health, medicine, education and employment to help developing countries' policymaking through the ODA. So, our country is supporting them by grasping their situations and requests, respecting their culture, and having close dialogues with them, so that such collaboration is satisfactory with each other.

[Main Measures]

- (1) As for loan aid, cooperation was provided for the usability of facilities for persons with disabilities by constructing barrier-free designed facilities including stations and airports. In FY 2015, the government decided to support 12 disability-sensitive projects.
- (2) The government supported persons with disabilities with grant-in-aid for improving rehabilitation and vocational training facilities, providing mini-buses for transport, and so on. In FY 2015, the government provided 44 disability-related aid for NGOs, educational institutions, local governments, etc. through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects, and for 9 disability-related projects through Japan NGO-linked grant aid.
- (3) As technological aid to support the participation of persons with disabilities, the government accepted trainees, and dispatched experts and JICA volunteers through JICA.
- (4) In cooperation with the U.N. and international organizations, the government has continuously been contributing to the U.N. Disability Fund; in FY 2014 contributed about US\$10,000. In cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region, the government has been supporting the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) through Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund (JECF), and in 2015 contributed US\$50,000 for preparation of a disaster prevention manual for persons with disabilities.