

Chapter 1 Realizing an Inclusive Society

Section 1 Efforts towards Realizing an Inclusive Society

1. Importance of Realizing an Inclusive Society

On July 26, 2016, an incident happened at the facilities for persons with disabilities called “Tsukui Yamayuri En” (hereinafter referred to as “the facility”) in Sagamihara City in Kanagawa, in which a man who was a former employee of the facility trespassed upon there and stabbed a large number of residents with a knife. As a result, 19 people were killed, and 26 people were wounded.

Reacting to this incident, the Government at once held a “Meeting of the Ministerial Council to deal with the killing incident at Support Facilities for Persons with Disabilities” (hereinafter referred to as “Cabinet Meeting”) and to quickly consider the necessary measures from various viewpoints. Further, “the investigation team for examination of the incident that occurred in the support facilities for persons with disabilities in Sagamihara and prevention of its recurrence” (hereinafter referred to as “the investigation team”) was set up in August in the same year to deal with this incident. The team discussed about the measures for preventing recurrence of such incidents based on a thorough inspection of the incident and compiled its report (hereinafter referred to as “the investigation team report”) on December 8 of the same year (Details about the inspection of the incident and prevention of recurrence is given in Section 2).

This incident is considered to be caused by the background of unilateral and selfish prejudice and discrimination towards persons with disabilities. It is imperative above all to dispel such prejudice and sense of discrimination from the society and sharing the common sense of value that weight of any life is strictly equal whether with or without disabilities in whole society (from “Investigation team report”). In response to this incident, the importance to realize an inclusive society, and for this purpose, promoting the public understanding among the people are deemed to be recognized anew.

The principle of Article 1 of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (1970 Act No.84), is that all citizens shall be respected as irreplaceable individuals who enjoy fundamental human rights equally regardless of whether people are disabled or not. In keeping with this principle, there is the need to realize an inclusive society in which all the citizens respect each other’s individuality and personality instead of segregating persons with disabilities (hereinafter referred to as “inclusive society”). Therefore, it is stipulated that the aim would be to comprehensively and systematically promote measures for the independence of persons with disabilities and to support their social participation.

Along the same line, Article 8 of the same law stipulates that the citizens have the responsibility to strive to contribute to the realization of an inclusive society.

Further, Article 4 of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (2013, Act No.65), stipulates a similar responsibility for the citizens, stating that citizens should strive to contribute to the promotion of the elimination of disability discrimination.

To enable the citizens to fulfil such responsibilities, the Government should also clearly express its strong stance towards realizing an inclusive society, including activities such as promoting education on inclusive society covering all aspects, from the stage of school education; To further promote public awareness about disability and persons with disabilities, it is necessary to utilize every opportunity to steadily and perseveringly develop various awareness efforts for realizing an inclusive society.

2. Awareness Efforts for Realizing an Inclusive Society

The Government is taking efforts on public relations and awareness raising activities to promote public understanding about disability and persons with disabilities along the lines of the philosophy of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities and the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. This is done to realize an inclusive society in which all the citizens live together with mutual understanding and respect for personality and individuality, regardless whether people have disability or not.

(Efforts by the Cabinet Office)

Based on this incident, the Cabinet Office has taken several concrete efforts in 2016 towards realizing an inclusive society.



Mr. Kato, Minister of State for Special Missions, visiting the facility and offering flowers (August 29, 2016)

(1) Hosting Regional Forums to Eliminate Disability Discrimination

To understand the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities that came into effect from April 2016 and to promote the efforts taken in each region, the Cabinet Office has been holding “Regional Forums to Eliminate Disability Discrimination” (hereinafter referred to as “Regional

Forums”), in collaboration with the local governments (held at 15 locations across the country in 2016. For details, please refer to “Chapter 3 Part 1” and the website of the Cabinet Office

(http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/suishin/sabekai/forum/kaisai_h28.html)).

After this incident, Mr. Katsunobu Kato, Minister of State for Special Missions, attended the regional forum held in Yokohama, Kanagawa (September 2, 2016 (Friday)) and addressed the gathering about the value of life and the importance of realizing an inclusive society.



Mr. Kato, Minister of State for Special Missions, addressing the Regional Forum (September 2, 2016)

Regional Forum to Eliminate Disability Discrimination(Kanagawa)

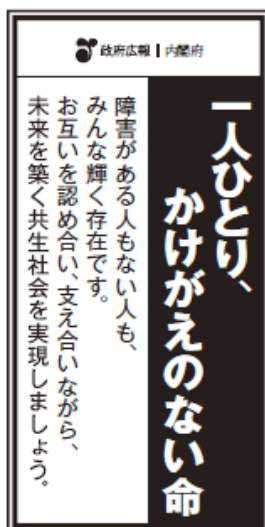
/Attended by Mr. Kato, Minister of State for Special Missions

- Date and Time: September 2, 2016 (Friday) 13:00~16:00
- Place: 2F Hall, Kanagawa Prefectural Citizens Center, Kanagawa
- Synopsis of message by the Cabinet Minister, Mr. Kato, to the Forum
 - * Statements that repudiate the existence of Persons with Disabilities can never be forgiven.
 - * All lives are equally precious and irreplaceable.
 - * To realize an “Inclusive Society” and a “Society with 100 Million taking Active Part” in which all the citizens build the future by supporting each other and respecting each other’s individuality and personality regardless of whether people are disabled or not, the Cabinet Office will take concrete efforts such as awareness-raising for deepening the concern and understanding about persons with disabilities.
- * Cabinet Minister, Mr. Kato’s full message: website of the Cabinet Office
http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/sagamihara_jiken/pdf/minister_msg.pdf

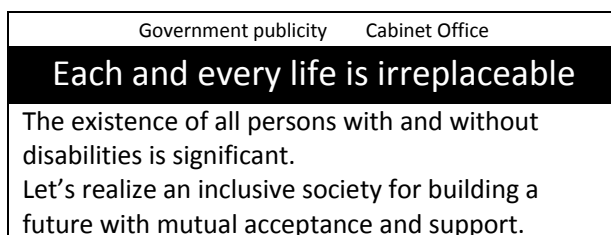
(2) Awareness Raising by Government Public Relations

The Cabinet Office, using the Government public relations, conducted awareness-raising programs for promoting the understanding of disability and persons with disabilities and realizing an inclusive society.

(Government public relations: Newspaper advertisement)



[Advertisement projected on newspaper]
 ○Promoting understanding of disability and persons with disabilities
 ○Awareness-raising towards realizing an “Inclusive Society”
 *Published in 70 papers from September 13~18, 2016



(Government public relations: Broadcast of video programs)

[Government Public Relations Program]

- Program Name: Broadcast from Kasumigaseki, 2016
- Date of Broadcast: December 3, 2016 (Saturday)
- Theme: Promoting the understanding of persons with disabilities
- Overview: To realize an inclusive society the people support each other and respect each other's individuality and personality regardless of whether people have disabilities or not deepening the understanding about the persons with disabilities is important. In line with the Week of Persons with Disabilities which was from December 3~9, there were visits to the facilities used by persons with disabilities (facility for severe mental and physical disabilities) to report introduce their thoughts and daily activities and patterns of their interaction with the surrounding persons.
- * The Website of the Government Public Relations (Government Public Relations Online: <http://www.gov-online.go.jp/>)



(3) Conducting Symposiums during the “Week of Persons with Disabilities”

Under the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, the week from December 3 to 9 is observed as “Week of Persons with Disabilities” and in that duration, the country, local governments and private organizations cooperate and collaborate to deepen the concern and understanding of disability as well as persons with disabilities and undertake various efforts to encourage persons with disabilities to participate in social, economic, cultural and all other fields. (For details, please refer to “Chapter 3 Part 1” and the website of the Cabinet Office(<http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/kou-kei/index-kk.html>)).

As part of the “Week of Persons with Disabilities” project, the Cabinet Office conducted a symposium titled “What is the truly inclusive society is”.

[Overview of the Symposium]

- **Held On** : December 2, 2016 (Friday) 14:30~17:00
- **Held At** : Central Government Building No.8
- **Theme** : What is the truly inclusive society: the question revised – Respecting the dignity and lives of everyone
- **Purpose** : To ensure the principles of the “Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities” that state, “All citizens shall be respected as irreplaceable individuals who enjoy fundamental human rights equally regardless of whether people are disabled or not (Article 1)” and “All persons with disabilities are equal to persons without disabilities, their dignity shall be respected as individuals who enjoy the fundamental human rights and they have the rights to be guaranteed a life that is worthy of dignity (Article 3)”, to share the importance of respecting the life and dignity of all citizens with the opportunity to confirm that we are steadily headed towards the realization of an inclusive society.

● **Program**

(1) Keynote Speech

Mr. Kazuhiro Nozawa (Editorial Writer at Mainichi Shimbun Inc., Committee Member of Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities)

(2) Panel Discussion

- Ms. Kubo Atsuko (Chairman of National Training Federation, Committee Member of **Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities**)
- Mr. Kumagaya Shinichiro (Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology)
- Ms. Kumiko Fujiwara (Secretary General, Center for Independent Living Kobe Be

Suketto)

· Ms. Nari Harumi (President, Social Welfare Service Corporation Visiting Home)

* Coordinator: Mr. Kazuhiro Nozawa

• **Key Issues and Concerns Shared regarding the Realization of a “True Inclusive Society”**

- An inclusive society is a society in which the persons with and without disabilities specifically interact with each other, protecting the dignity of all persons.
- When people specifically interact with each other, people with and without disabilities get acquainted with each other which is vital to the realization of an inclusive society.
- Realization of “An inclusive society that is not divided by the presence or absence of disabilities” shall pave the way to a society in which everyone can live with peace of mind.
- One of the efforts to be implemented moving forward is the need for learning the social model of disability and persons with disabilities as part of school curriculum.
- Not much is known about persons with disabilities due to limited chances of interacting with them. Interaction without discrimination from childhood is vital.
- Promotion of the understanding of the difficulties experienced by parents of children with disabilities and devised child care and livelihood (it is important to learn about “Barrier-free Mind” in the school curriculum as a social model).
- Importance of interaction between residents and the facility for persons with disabilities (it is important that persons with disabilities have a definite knowledge about how to live in a region under various situations).
- It is important that families and concerned parties step forward towards realizing an inclusive society in which persons with disabilities participate and grow with the society. The Government should also take steps to achieve this.
- To ensure the situation that persons are “not being subject to violence”, it is essential to diversify the reliable dependences. It is imperative to create a society where no one is left behind.

Symposium in Commemoration of “Week of Persons with Disabilities”

[Theme] What is the truly inclusive society : the question revised - Respect the dignity and lives of everyone

Date: December 2, 2016 (Friday) 14:30~17:00

Venue: Central Government Building
No.8, 1st Floor Auditorium

● Keynote Speech

[Speaker] Kazuhiro Nozawa

Editorialist, The Mainichi Newspapers
Member of Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities



Symposium in commemoration of “Week of Persons with Disabilities” of the year 2016

● Panel Discussion

[Coordinator]

Kazuhiro Nozawa

[Panelist]



Atsuko Kubo
President, Union of national parents' associations for persons with intellectual disabilities (Inclusion Japan), Member of Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities



Shinichiro Kumagaya
Associate professor, The Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Tokyo



Kumiko Fujiwara
Executive director, Center for Independent Life, Kobe, Be Suketto



Harumi Nari
Director, Houmon-No-Ie

The council of Cabinet Office, “Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities” (http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/suishin/seisaku_iinkai/index.html) was held on July 29 (Friday), immediately after the stabbing incident that took place in Support Facilities for Persons with Disabilities in Sagami-hara City in Kanagawa. The committee had the Associate Chairperson, Mr. Ishikawa, briefing upon the incident at the outset. He prayed for the departed and offered his condolences to the bereaved families, expressed his sympathies to the injured persons and their relatives and a moment of silence was observed by all members.

After observing a moment of silence, Mr. Masahiro Tanaka, Member of the National Training Federation and member of this committee presented a statement issued by the organization about alleviating the anxiety of persons with disabilities and their families following the incident so that they can live in peace. (*Two types of statements including those for “Persons with disabilities”) (Statement for desk distribution). [The statement is also available on the website of the National Training Federation: <http://zen-iku.jp/>]

Statement ①

Regarding the incident at the TsukuiYamayuri En in Kanagawa (Statement)

In the early hours of July 26, 2016, an unprecedented incident occurred Support Facilities for Persons with Disabilities called “TsukuiYamayuriEn, Kanagawa” (Midori-Ku, Sagami-hara, Designated Managers and Social Welfare Service Corporation Co-Op Kanagawa), in which residents who are mentally disabled and using the support of the facility were attacked, resulting in the death of 19 persons and injury of 20 persons. We pray for those victims who have lost their lives and express our sincere condolences to all the family members. We pray for the speedy recovery of those who have been injured and are undergoing treatment.

We are shocked at the intolerant and brutal act of killing and injuring persons with disabilities one after another, we are devastated for the victims and their families and are trembling with sorrow and frustration. This brutal and atrocious crime, due to intolerance aimed at persons with mental disabilities, by picking a time frame with minimal staffing, can never be forgiven.

This incident has left a deep, large scar in many persons with disabilities and their families and welfare officials, besides the members and staff of this facility. It is necessary to thoroughly investigate the background of this incident so that such an incident never happens again.

Going forward, we request all those involved in handling this incident to place their first and foremost consideration on proper care of the victims and their bereaved families as well as families and those residing in similar facilities. In addition to that, please investigate the background, cause and details of the incident thoroughly; devise immediate measures and medium to long term measures rapidly while conducting profound discussions for lessons in the future. Please also disclose information regarding the progress of discussion and future handling measures so that this incident is not forgotten.

We particularly request special consideration of media and related organizations to let the victims of the incident and their bereaved families take their time to digest what has happened to them and to give them their much needed space.

It is reported that the suspect in this case is said to have issued a statement repudiating the life and dignity of persons with disabilities. However, our children are earnestly living and cherishing the life of each and every person regardless of their disabilities. We, as a family, also support and watch each and every step of the way. The each and every life lost cruelly in this incident is irreplaceable. The person who has committed this crime must

face his actions and understand the seriousness of the crime that he has committed.

We would like every citizen to consider this incident as a reminder of the importance of the life of each and every person with disabilities. We sincerely request you to walk together to create an inclusive society that respects each other's individuality and personality, regardless of whether people are disabled or not.

July 26, 2016

National Training Federation
Chairman Kubo Atsuko

■ Statement ②

Incident at Tsukui Yamayuri En - Regarding (To all the persons with disabilities)

On July 26, an incident took place in a facility called "Tsukui Yamayuri En" in Kanagawa in which 19 persons with disabilities were killed.

The man who was arrested as a suspect had worked at the facility.

We pray for the departed and express our condolences to their families.

We also pray for the speedy recovery of those who were injured.

The suspect attacked the people, who could not call for help, one by one, hurt them and took away their lives.

This is very cruel and can never be forgiven.

It is extremely sad and regrettable to think about the persons who have died.

It appears that the suspect had stated that "Persons with disabilities should not exist".

We believe that there are many people who feel uneasy about it.

At such times, let us talk about our uneasy feelings to those near us.

All our families and friends, colleagues at work and supporters would certainly listen to us.

Let us spend every day as we always do.

There is no need to change our way of life due to this uneasiness.

The existence of each of us, whether disabled or not, is important.

There is no such thing as being hurt by someone just because one is disabled.

Even if somebody says that "It is better if persons with disabilities do not exist", we shall do everything as a family to protect you.

Therefore, we request you to please be relieved and live with dignity.

July 27, 2016

National Training Federation
Chairman Kubo Atsuko