

## **Chapter 3 Status of Implementation of Measures for Persons with Disabilities**

### **Part 5 Global Efforts**

#### **Measures related to International Cooperation in Accordance with Japan's International Position**

##### **[Main Measures]**

<Global efforts for persons with disabilities>

(1) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (hereinafter referred to as “CRPD”) was adopted at the 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2006, with a view to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. It entered into force in May 2008. As of March 31, 2017, the number of States and Organizations Parties to the CRPD is 173.

Japan has actively participated in the process of drafting the CRPD and signed on September 28, 2007. Subsequently, various laws and systems have been streamlined in Japan such as the revision of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (August 2011), etc. Japan deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the CRPD to the United Nations on January 20, 2014 and it entered into force on February 19, 2014.

According to the CRPD, each State party shall submit “a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard” to the United Nations (Article 35 of the CRPD). Japan submitted the first State Party report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2016.

Furthermore, in the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to CRPD that was held in New York on June 15, 2016 (14<sup>th</sup> local time), Mr. Ishikawa (Chairman for the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities with the Cabinet Office, Professor at University of Shizuoka) was elected as a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He became the first Japanese to serve as a member of the Committee.

<Promotion of International cooperation>

(1) Basic Policy of International Cooperation

Japan supports through ODAs and others measures for persons with disabilities taken by developing countries in a wide range of fields such as welfare, health care, medical treatment, education and employment including by utilizing technologies and experiences accumulated in these fields. In

cooperating with those countries, Japan makes efforts to realize cooperation in a mutually satisfactory manner by seeking to fully understanding their conditions and requests, respecting their cultures and implementing close policy dialogues.

(2) ODA Loan

ODA Loans are formulated by considering the use of facilities by persons with disabilities including through seeking barrier-free planning for railway and airport projects, etc.

(3) Grant Aid

The Government supports persons with disabilities and offers many grant aid in a year for improving rehabilitation and vocation training facilities for persons with disabilities, providing mini buses for transportation etc. In the fiscal year 2016, the Government provided 41 disability-related aids for NGOs, educational institutions, local public enteritis, etc. through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. In addition, in the fiscal year 2016, 7 disability-related projects were implemented through Grant assistance for Japanese NGOs .

(4) Technical Cooperation

In addition to technical cooperation aimed at persons with disabilities, the Government has also been accepting trainees and dispatching experts and JICA volunteers through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in order to support the participation of persons with disabilities in all fields of the development process.

(5) Cooperation through International Organizations

In cooperation with the international organizations such as the United Nations, Japan has been continuously contributing to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and has contributed US\$7,300 in the fiscal year 2015. With regards 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 (JECP) and contributed US\$50,000 in the fiscal year 2015 for the preparation of a disaster prevention manual for persons with disabilities.