

**White Paper on Children and Young People 2012**  
(abridged edition)

**June, 2012**  
**Cabinet Office**

## White Paper on Children and Young People 2012

White Paper on children and young people is an annual report submitted to the National Assembly in accordance with Article 6 of the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People (Act No.71 of 2009). This is the third report as designated by the Act . (If counted together with White Paper on youth (not designated by law) created from 1956, this report is 54<sup>th</sup> report.)

### Part 1 Present State of Children and Young People

It introduces the current situation of children and young people, based on various data related to children and young people.

- Rearing environment
- Social life
- Safety and problematic behavior

### Special Feature

Topic: Youth's Outlook on work and Future vision, and Current situation and Challenges on vocational independence and employment support,

It analyzes ideas on work of teens and people in their 20s, and the kind of employment support measures they would like, based on the results of the "Young People Opinions Survey"

### Part 2 Measures for Children and Young People

It introduces measures for children and young people implemented in fiscal year 2011, along the configuration of the "Vision for Children and Young People."

- Promoting the policies on development and support for children and young people in a comprehensive and systematic manner
- Providing support for healthy development of all children and young people
- Supporting children, young people and their families facing difficulties
- Improving the environment for the healthy development of children and young people to be supported by society as a whole
- Framework for the promotion of future measures

### Column

It introduces some topics such as activities of Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) supporting children and young people and efforts of local governments that support youth social activities

# Part 1 Present State of Children and Young People

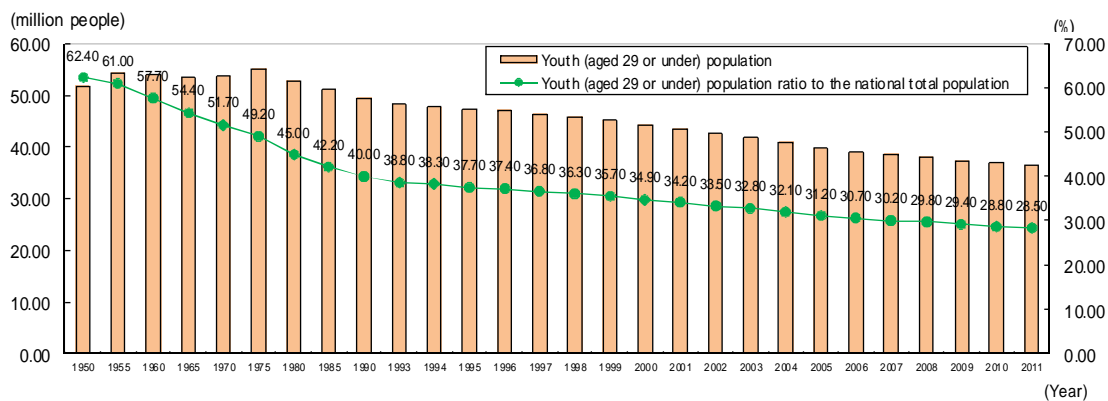
## Chapter 1 Rearing Environment

### Population of children and young people

Population of children and young people as well as its ratio to the total population has been declining almost consistently since 1975.

As of October 1, 2011 Japan's total population is 127.8 million. Of them, the population of children and young people (age 0-29) is 36.37 million people, which is 28.5 percent of the total population.

**Figure1 Youth Population and Ratio to Total Population**



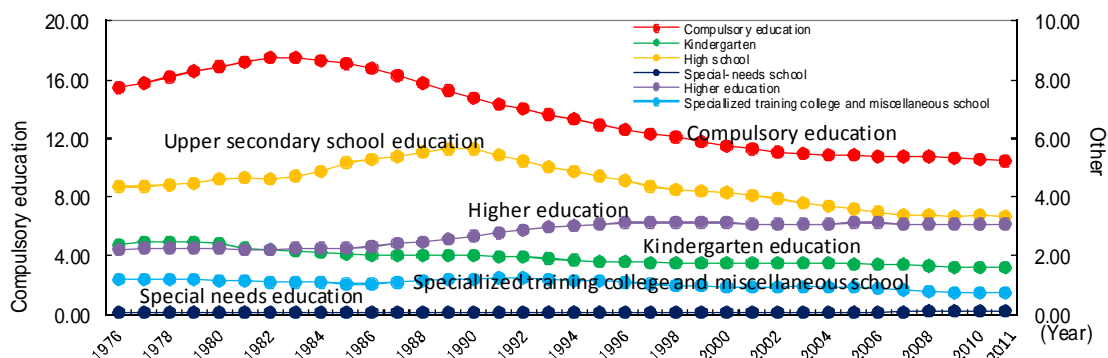
Source: "Population Census" and "Population Estimates" (As of October 1st each year), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

### School Education Population

The number of schoolchildren in compulsory education has been decreasing after its peak in FY1982.

The number of children in compulsory education reached the peak in fiscal year 1982, but has shown a continuous drop thereafter, and is 10.48 million people as of fiscal year 2011. The number of high school students became the highest ever in fiscal year 1989, but began to decline afterwards, and is 3.36 million people as of fiscal year 2011. As for the case of higher education (vocational colleges, universities and junior colleges), the number of students started growing continuously since fiscal year 1985 and commenced to decrease from fiscal year 1999, and amounted to 3.1 million in fiscal year 2011

**Figure 2 Changes in the Category-wise Number of Students Enrolled**



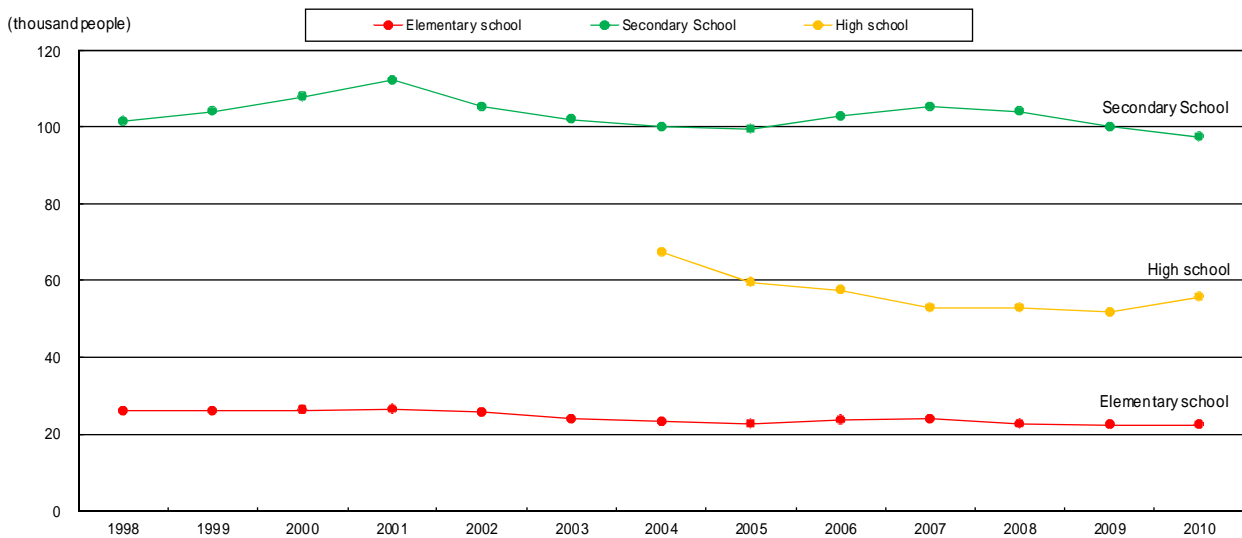
Source: "School Basic Survey", Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

○ **Situation of truancy among schoolchildren**

The number for truancy of elementary and junior high school students decreased compared to the previous years, while the truancy number among high school students increased compared to the previous years.

The number of truant students in national, public and private elementary and secondary schools, as of the fiscal year 2010, is 22.5 thousand people for elementary schools, 97.4 thousand people for junior high schools, and 120 thousand people in total. This total number of truant schoolchildren of primary and secondary schools declined about 3,000 people than the previous year. However, the number of truant students in national, public and private high schools increased by about 4,000 people compared to the previous year to 55.7 thousand people in fiscal year 2010.

**Figure 3 Changes in the Ratio of Truant Students to Total Students by School Type**



Source: "Survey of Problems Regarding Concerning Students' Unadvisable Behaviors", Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

## Chapter 2 Social Life

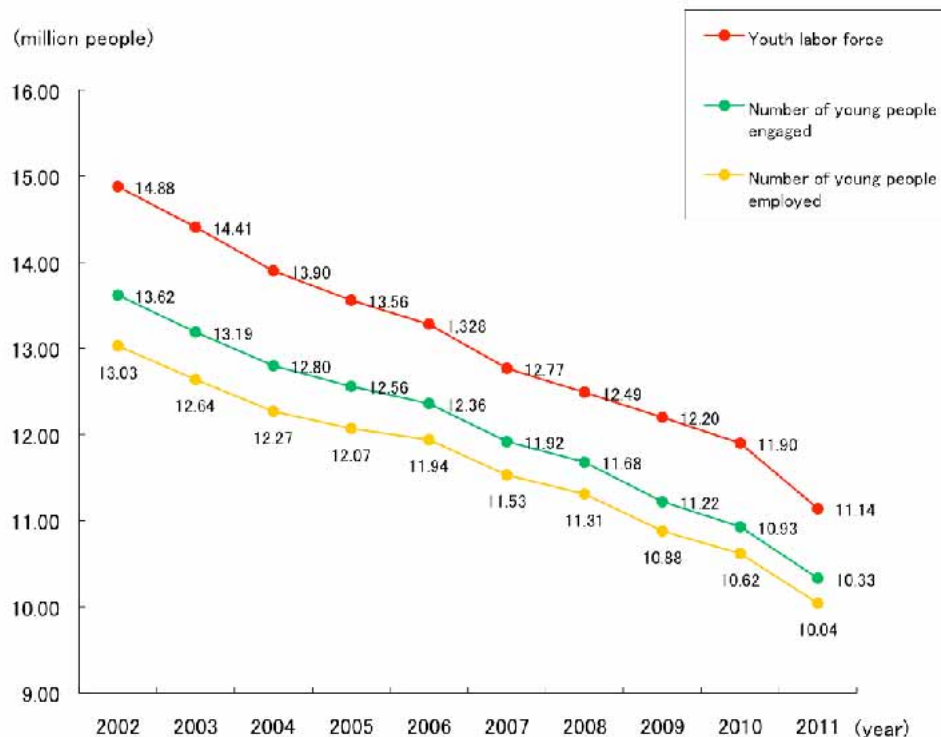
### ○ Labor (general conditions)

Labor force population of young people is decreasing consistently.

Population of young people (age 15-29) in 2011 is 19.05 million people, among which 11.14 million people (58.5%) are in labor force population (workers and the unemployed combined together out of the population over the age of 15).

\*Due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the results for the year of 2011 exclude Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

**Figure4 Changes in the Ratio of Employees (excluding company or corporate executives) Other Than Regular Employees**



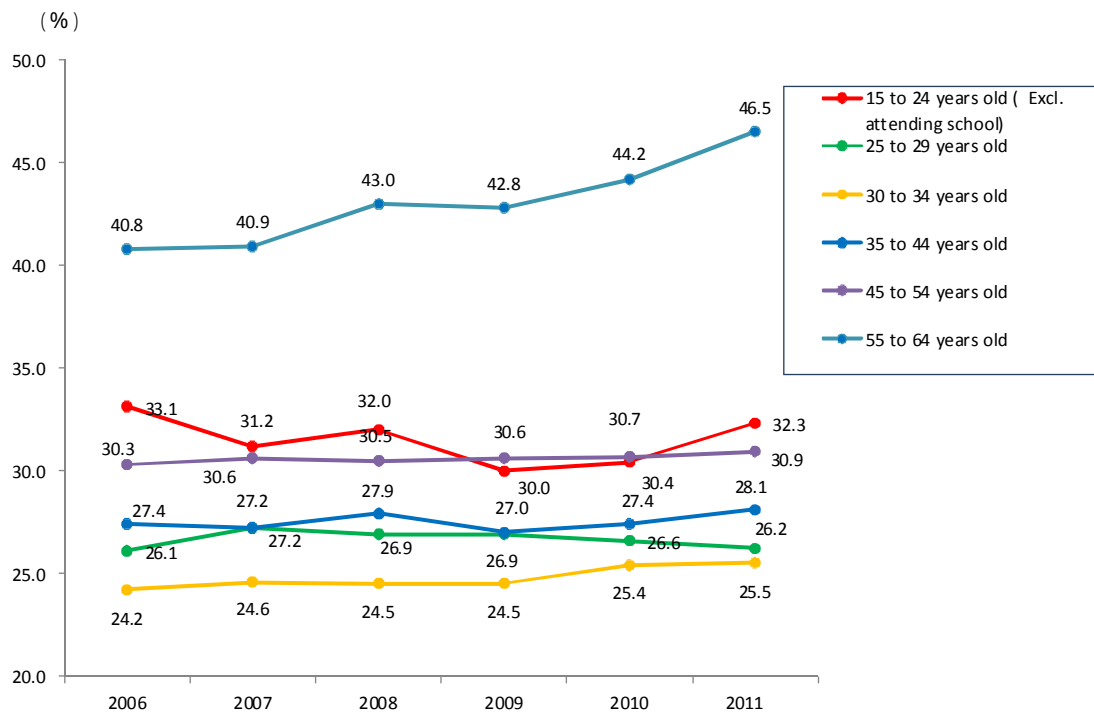
Source: "Labor Force Survey", Ministry of Internal affairs and Communications

### ○ Ratio of employees other than the full time employees (excluding enrolled students)

Ratio of employees other than the full time employees of 15-24 years (except during school) is 32.3%.

The ratio of young employees other than the full time employees to total employees (other than directors) for 15-24 year-olds (except during school) in 2011 is 32.3%.

**Figure 5 Changes in the Ratio of Employees Other Than the Full Time Employees (Excluding Enrolled Students)**



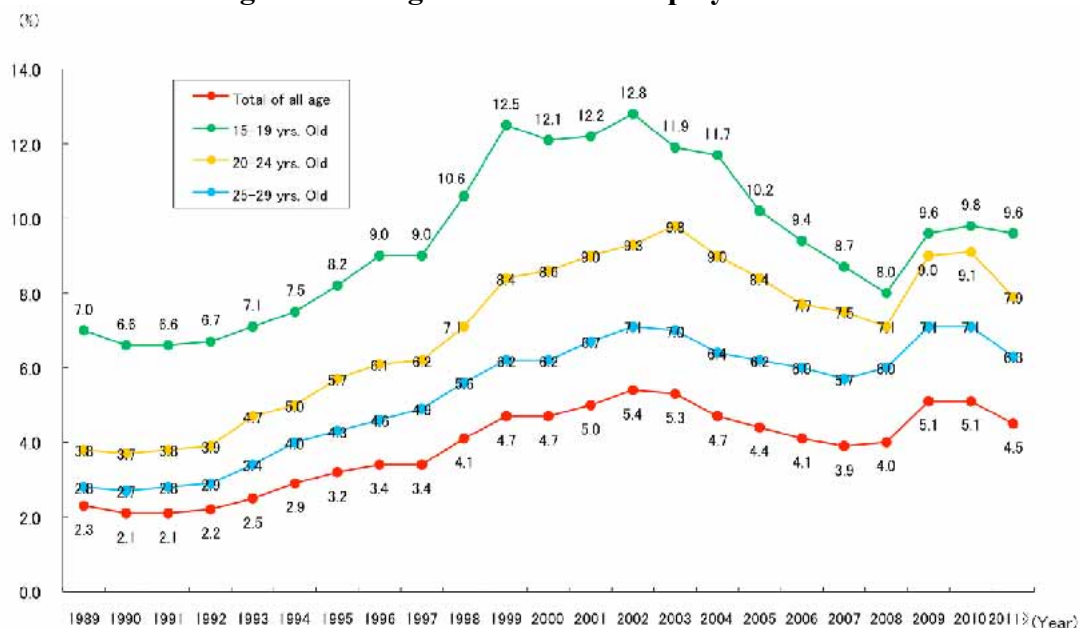
Source: "Labor Force Survey (Detailed Tabulation)", Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

### o Youth Unemployment

The youth unemployment rate is constantly high, compared with the total of all ages.

After rising sharply in 1998 and 1999, the youth unemployment rate declined since 2003, and rose significantly from the effects of the recession in 2009. In comparison with the total of all age groups, the rate is constantly high.

**Figure 6 Changes in Youth Unemployment Rate**



Source: "Labor Force Survey", Ministry of Internal affairs and Communications

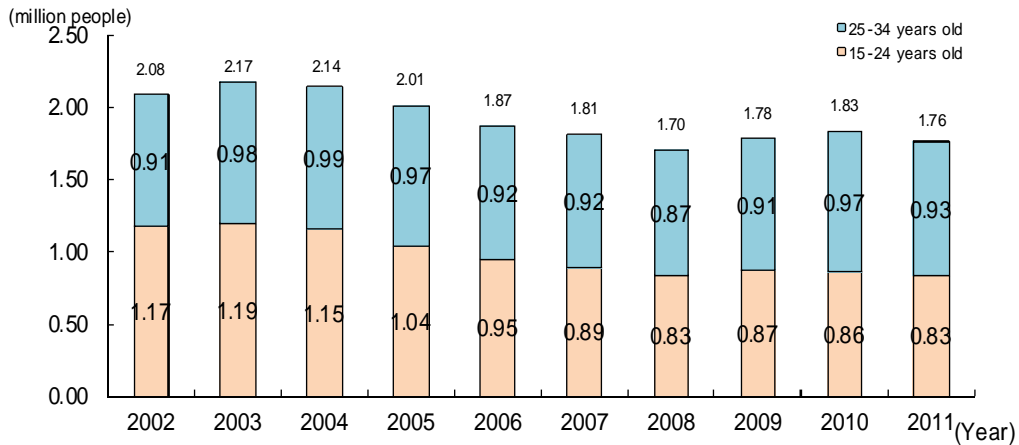
○ **Status of Part-time Workers**

Number of part-time workers is 1.76 million people.

Number of part-time workers in the year of 2011 is 1.76 million people. If viewed by age group, it is 0.83 million people for 15-24 year-olds and 0.93 million people for 25-34 year-olds.

\*Due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the results for the year of 2011 exclude Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

**Figure 7 Changes in the Number of Part-Time Workers**



Source: “Labor Force Survey (Detailed Tabulation)”, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

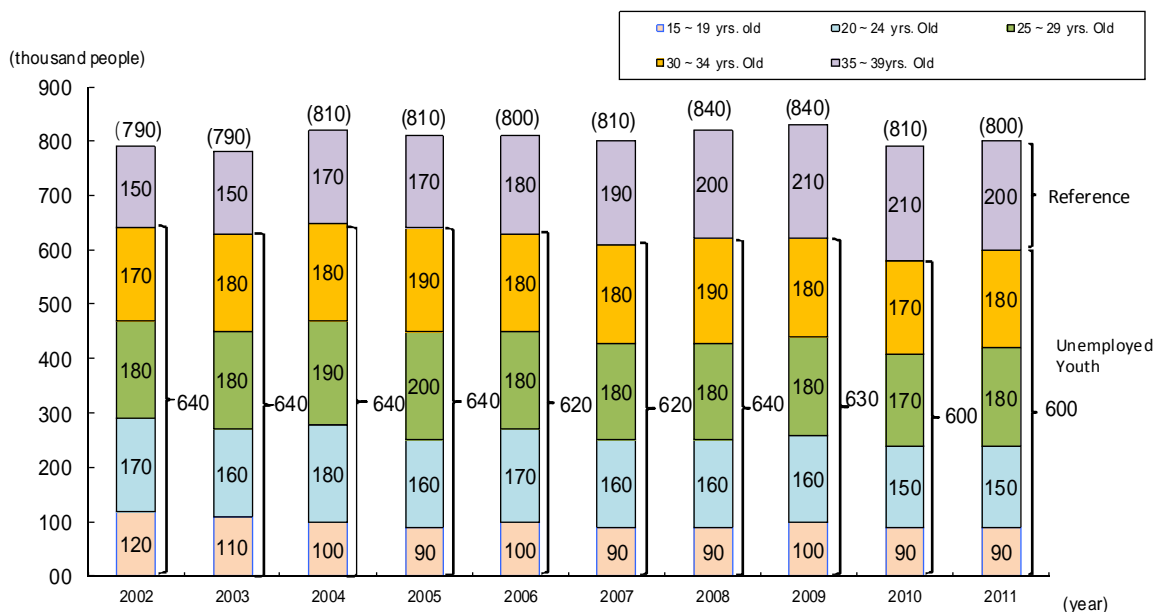
○ **Status of the youths who are not currently in education, employment or training (NEETs)**

The number of NEETs is 0.6 million people.

The number of the youths who are not currently in education, employment or training (among 15-34 year-old) has become 0.6 million people. Breaking down into: 90 thousand people for 15-19 year-olds, 150 thousand people for 20-24 year-olds, 180 thousand people for 25-29 year-olds, and 180 thousand people for 30-34 year-olds.

\*Due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the results for the year of 2011 exclude Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

**Figure 8 Changes in the number of unemployed youth**



Source: “Labor Force Survey”, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

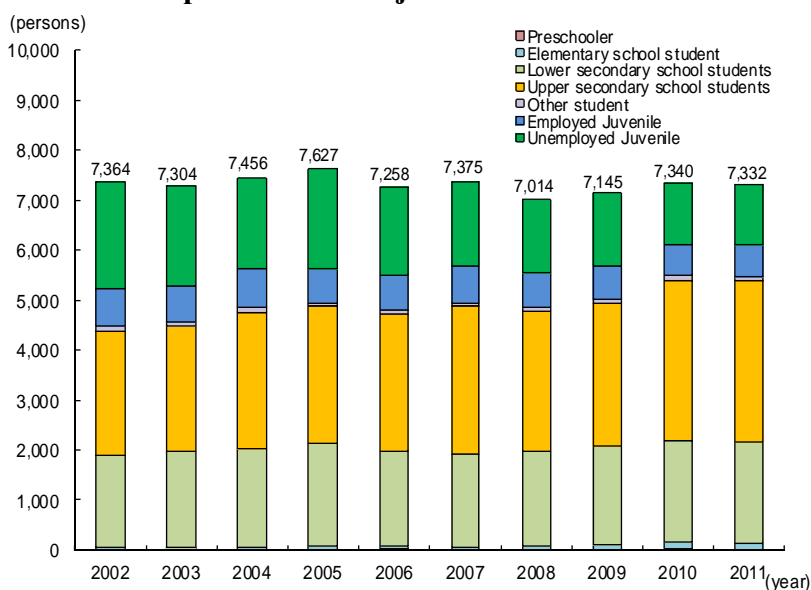
## Chapter 3 Safety and Problematic Behavior

### ○ Situation of Crime Victims

The number of children who became victims of welfare violations decreased compared to the previous year.

In the year 2011, the number of children who became victims of crimes of welfare violations, such as the violations of the Act on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Act 52 of 1999), the Act on Child Welfare (Act 164 of 1947), and the regulations of local governments, was 7,332 people, which is 8 people (0.1%) less compared to the previous year. Among them, the children who became victims according to the Act on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography was 1,219 people, which is 136 people (10.0%) less compared to the previous year.

**Figure 9 Trends in the Number of Penal Code Offenses known to police in which juveniles were victimized**



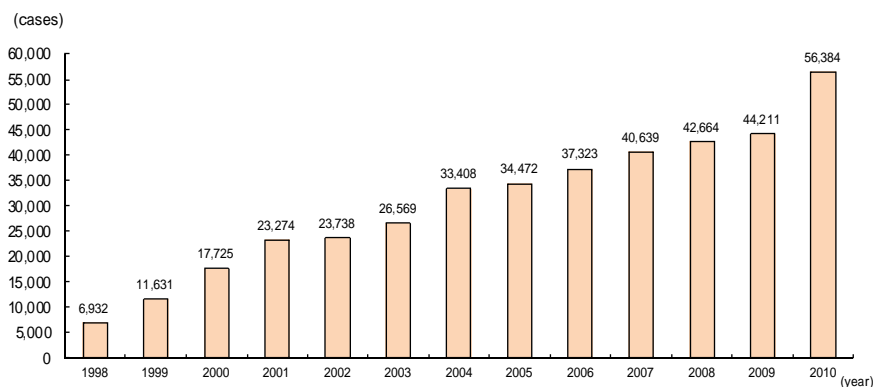
Source: National Police Agency

### ○ Number of Consultations Related to Child Abuse

The number of consultations related to child abuse is increasing every year.

The number of consultations related to child abuse in Child Guidance Centers is 56.4 thousand (increased by 27.5% compared to the previous fiscal year).

**Figure 10 Trends in the Number of Cases for Consultation for Child Abuse in Child Guidance Center (cases)**



Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services", Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare



○ **The Contents of the Consultations Related to Child Abuse**

The most common content is physical abuse, followed by neglect and psychological abuse.

As for the contents of the consultations related to child abuse in the fiscal year 2010, the physical abuse is highest at 38.2%, followed by neglect (32.5%), and then psychological abuse (26.7%).

**Figure 11 The number of consultations on child abuse in child guidance centers by the contents**

| Classification | Total            | Physical abuse    | Neglect or refusal of protection <Neglect> | Sexual abuse    | Psychological abuse |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| FY 2010        | <100%><br>56,384 | <38.2%><br>21,559 | <32.5%><br>18,352                          | <2.5%><br>1,405 | <26.7%><br>15,068   |

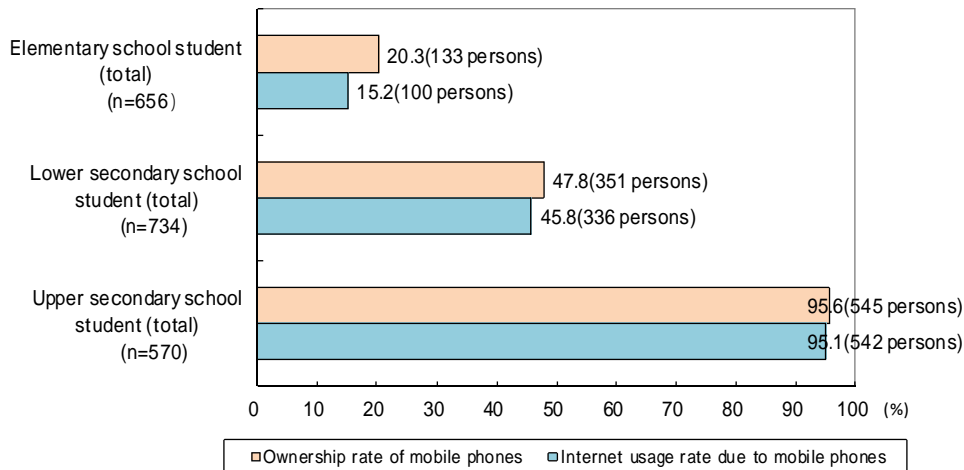
Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services", Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

○ **Internet Usage by Children and Young People**

Most of high school students own a mobile phone and use the Internet.

Ownership rate of mobile phones (including PHS) is 20.3% among elementary school students, 47.8% among middle school students, and 95.6% among high school students. Utilization of the Internet by mobile phones is 15.2% in elementary school, 45.8% in middle school, and 95.1% in high school students. Many of the young people that own a mobile phone use the Internet.

**Figure 12 Rate of Mobile Phone Owners and Rate of Internet Users Among Youth**



Source: "The Fifth Survey on Information Society and Japanese Youth", Cabinet Office

○ **Child Victims related to Online Dating Sites**

The number of children who became crime victims by using "Online Dating Sites" is 282 people.

In 2011, the number of child crime victims by using "Online Dating Sites" was 282 people. By type of crime, 182 victims (64.5%) is related to the violations of the Act on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, followed by 46 people (16.3%) related to the regulations of local governments.

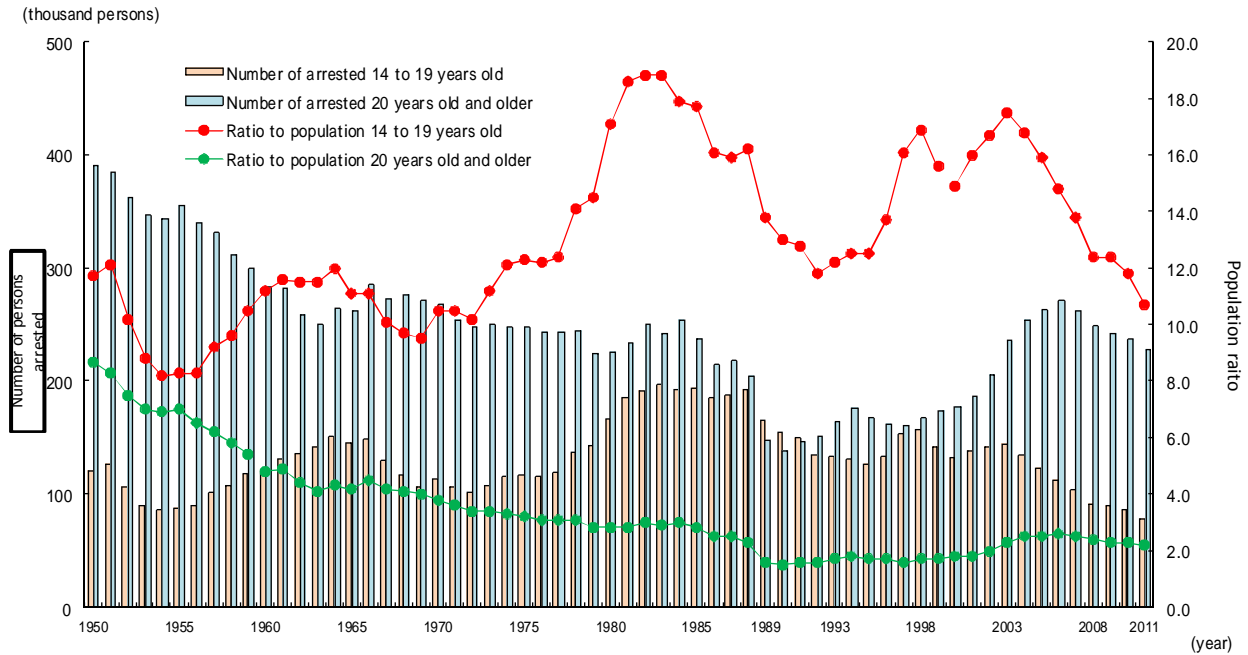
In 2011, the number of child crime victims by using community sites other than "Online Dating Sites" was 1,085 people. By type of crime, 637 victims (58.7%) is related to the violations of the regulation of the local governments, followed by 393 people (36.2%) related to the Act on child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

○ **Juvenile Penal Code Offenders**

The number of people arrested for juvenile penal code offenses has been declining in recent years.

The number of juveniles who committed penal code offenses in 2011 was 77.7 thousand people (decreased by 8.2 thousand people (9.5%), compared with the previous year). The ratio to the youth population (the number of juveniles arrested per 1,000 persons of the same age group) was 10.7 (decreased by 1.1% from the previous year). The population ratio is 4.9 times as much as that of adults.

**Figure 13 Trends in the Number of Juveniles Arrested for Penal Code Offenses and Ratio to Youth Population**



Source: National Police Agency

## Special Feature

# Youth's Outlook on Work and Future Vision, Current Situation and Challenges on Vocational Independence and Employment Support

### 1. Introduction

To figure out how young people evaluate government support measures for employment and as such, what kind of vision they have about their own future and also what kind of future they wish for, an Internet survey for teens and 20s was conducted. This section introduces, by using the results of the survey, young people's awareness of future life and work and their opinions about national policies concerning employment support and vocational independence, as well as an overview of national initiatives and actual examples of the efforts that are being made regionally and through private organizations.

### 2. Results of the Survey

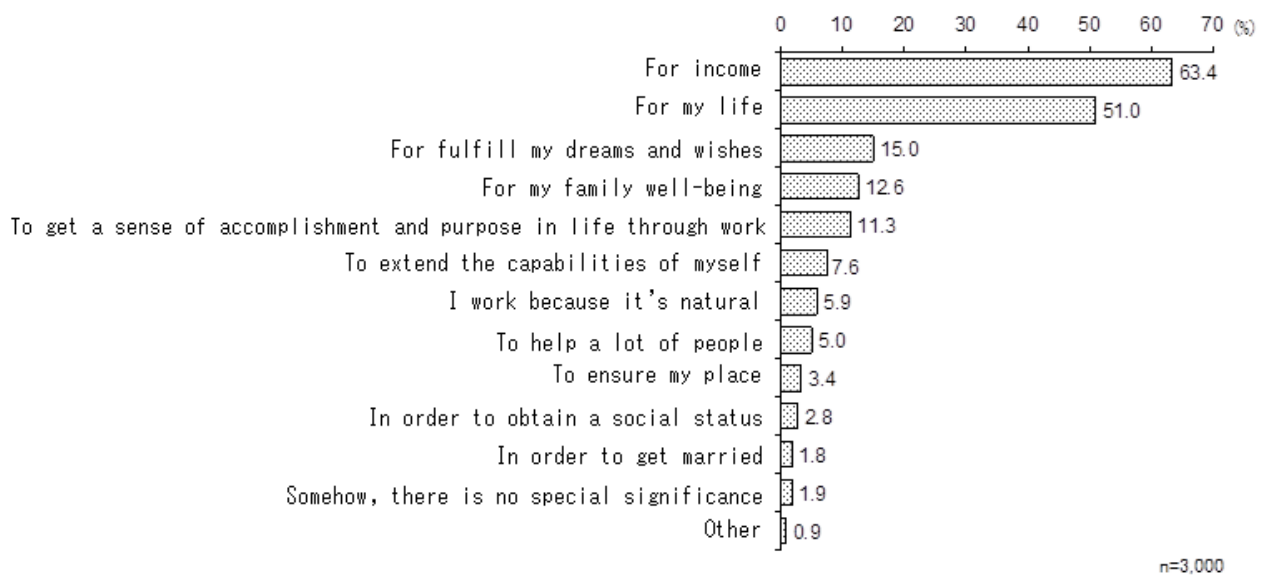
#### (1) Overview of the Survey

This survey is an Internet survey that was conducted in the time period between December 31, 2011 until January 2012, for 3,000 men and women between the ages of 15 to 29 years nationwide, (1,500 men and 1,500 women) who have been registered as research monitors at a survey company. The survey has been set in a way that the participants were divided into seven blocks nationwide, (Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto, Chubu and Hokuriku, Kinki, China, Shikoku, Kyushu-Okinawa) and allocated the number of collected samples to be 3000 samples for the population ratio between the ages of 15 to 29 years for each block.

#### (2) Outlook on Work

For work objectives, the highest at 63.4% is "to earn," then "for my personal life" 51.0%, "to fulfill my hopes and dreams" 15.0%, "for the life of the family" 12.6%, "to get a sense of accomplishment and purpose in life through work" 11.3%, and so on. (Multiple answers)

**Figure 14 What do you work for?**

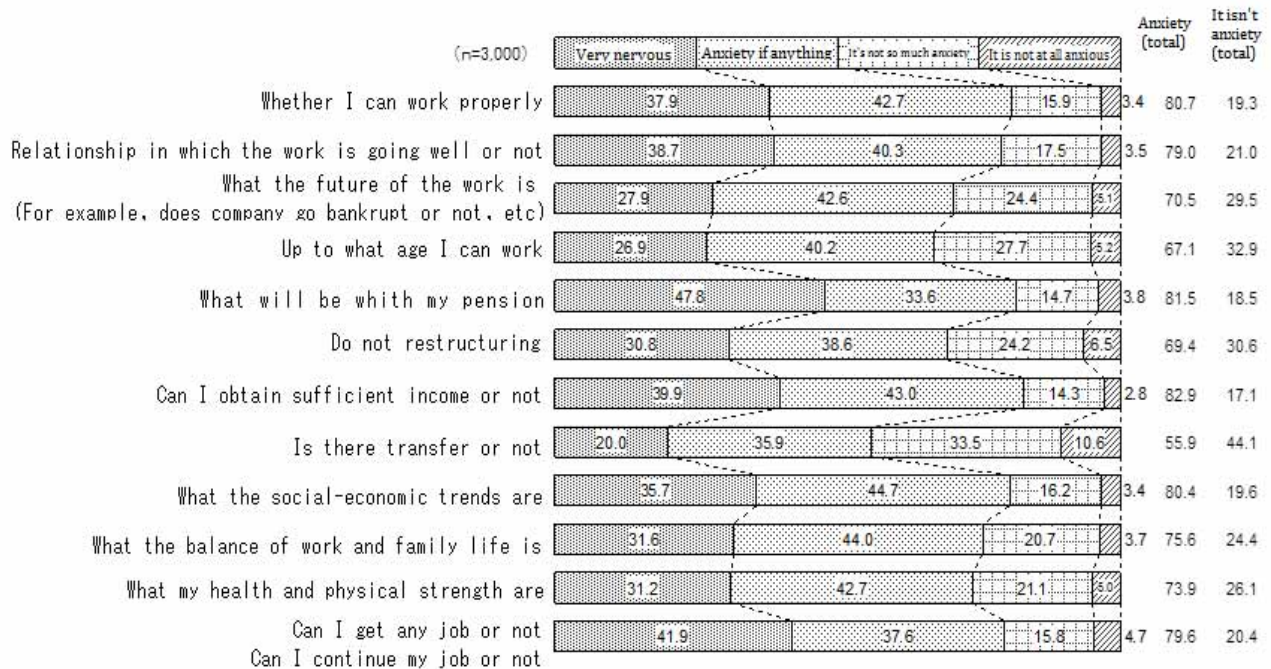


#### (3) Concerns and Realities related to Work

The high "anxiety rate", indicated by the combination of "very anxious" and "somewhat anxious" selections, was expressed for: "Uncertainties about getting enough income," 82.9%, "Uncertainties

about receiving pension at old age," 81.5%, "Uncertainties about being able to work properly," 80.7%, "Uncertainties about economic trends in the society," 80.4% Anxiety about economical issues such as work, income, pension, retirement, and economic trends is relatively high amounting for more than 80%.

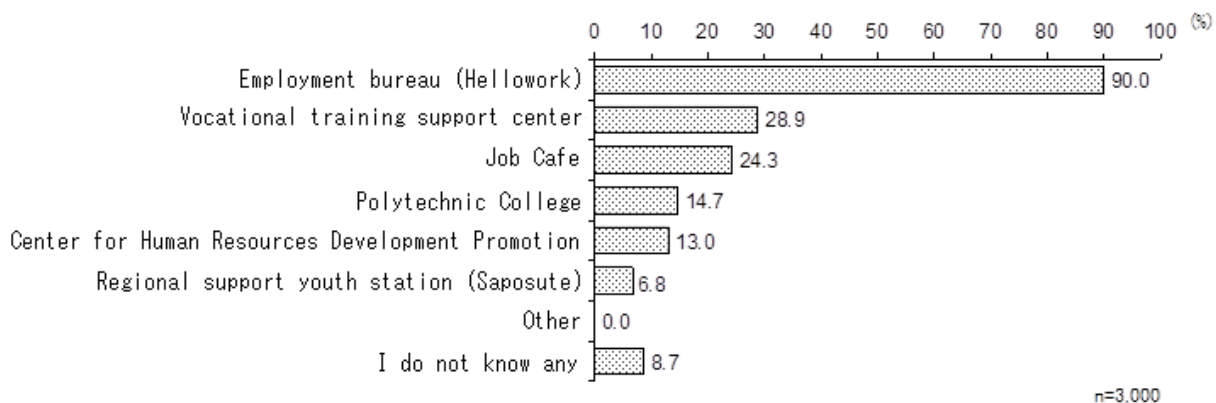
**Figure 15 Reality Concerns Related to Work**



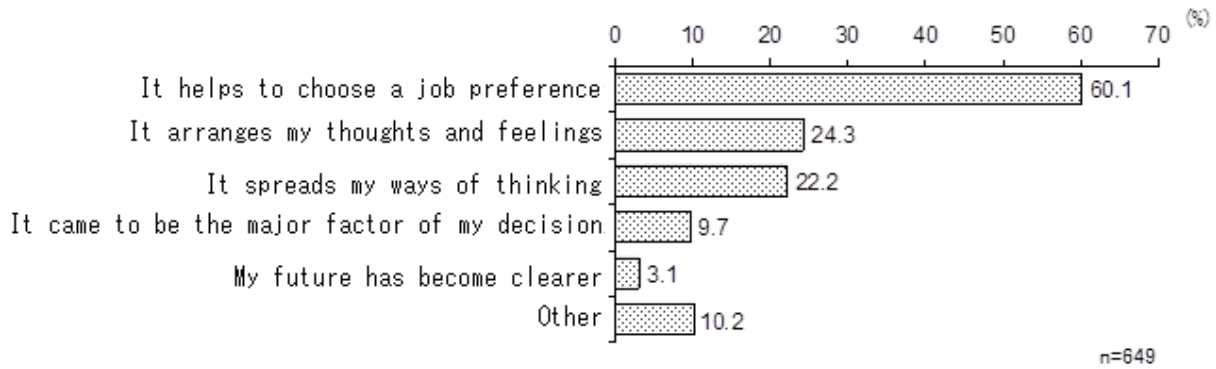
**(4) Recognition and use of consulting organizations**

The highest recognition is for "Hello Work"(Public employment security office) at 90.0 percent. Regarding the effects of using a public agency consultation, highest at 60.1% is "was helpful to choose a place of employment", then 24.3% "organized their own thoughts and feelings," and 22.2% "broadened their own thinking." (Multiple answers for both)

**Figure 16 Recognition of Public Consultation Organizations Supporting Work**



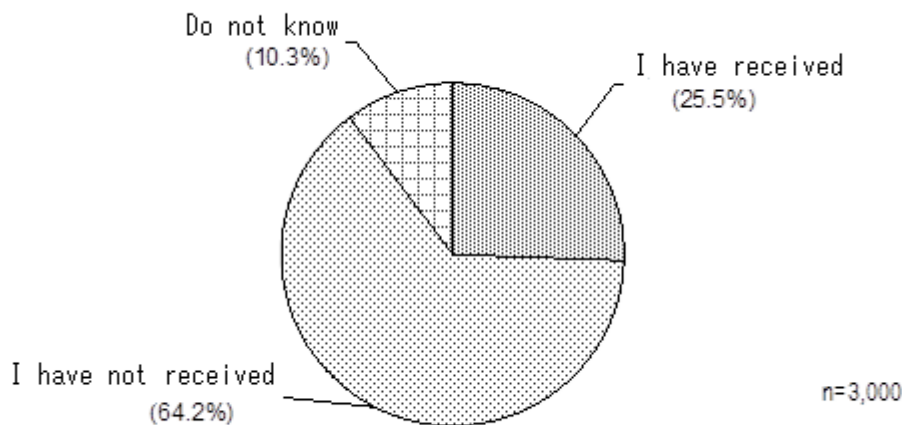
**Figure 17 Effect of Using Public Consultation Organizations**



(5) Current status of career/vocational education

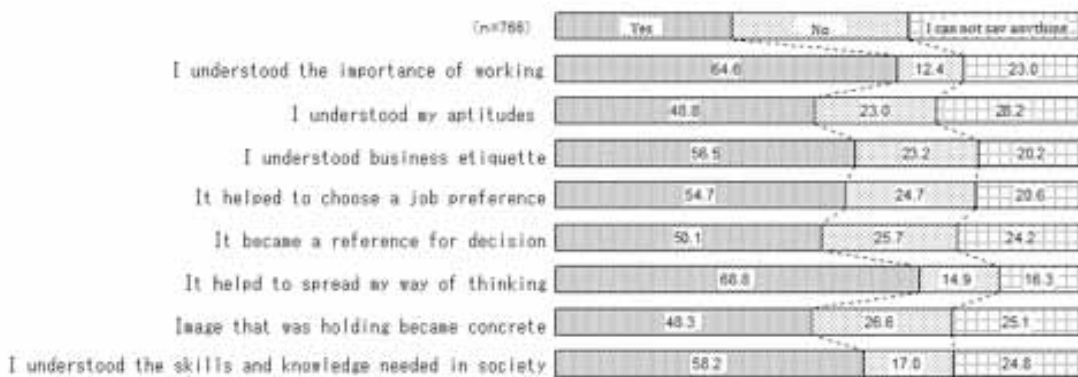
Regarding the experience of career/vocational education 64.2% answered "have not received" and 25.5% answered "have received," while 10.3% answered: "do not know."

**Figure 18 Experiences of Career Education and Vocational Education**



In addition, for those who answered "has received" a career/vocational education, when asked about what kind of effect obtained, 68.8% "broadened their own thinking," followed by "understood the importance of working," 64.6%, and "discovered knowledge and skills (abilities), that are necessary in the society," 58.2%

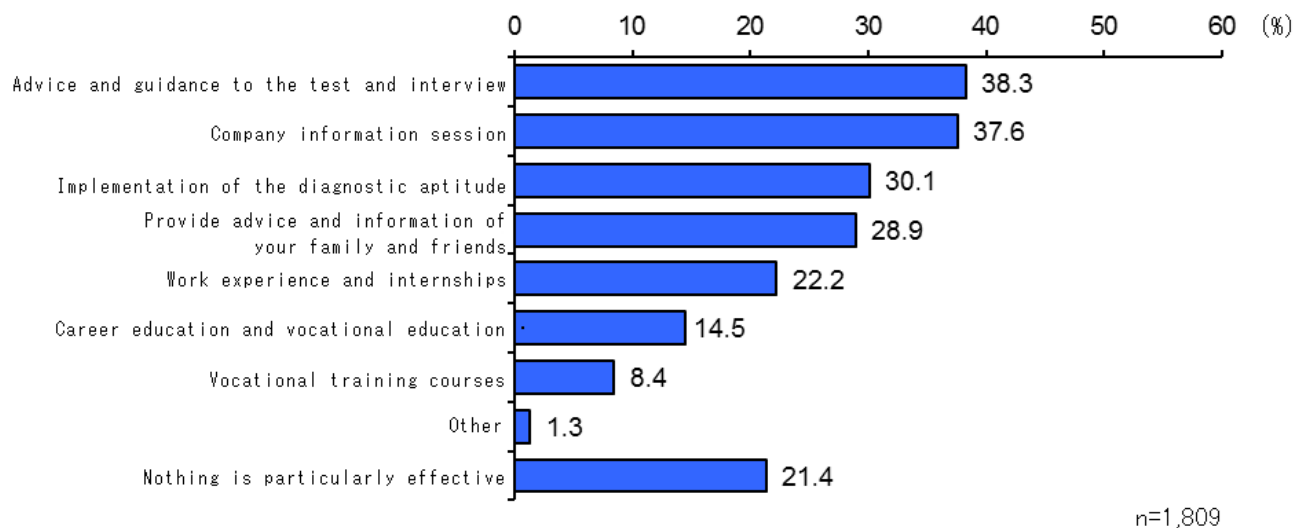
**Figure 19 Effect of Career Education and Vocational Education**



(6) Support that was effective for career choices and job search

When asked about what kind of assistance was effective when looking for a job and choosing a career, the most common answers were "Advice and guidance for testing and interviewing," 38.3%, then "Company information sessions," 37.6%, "Implementation of diagnostic aptitude," 30.1%, "Providing advice and information for family and friends," 28.9%, and "workplace experience and internship" at 22.2%.

**Figure 20 Support that Was Effective**



### 3. Vocational Independence and Employment Support Initiatives

(1) Efforts by 'Hello Work' offices to support people who are not unemployed

'Hello Work offices' provide various employment support programs for graduates and enhance it by promoting cooperation with universities.

For example, 'Hello Work' offices for new graduates were established at every prefecture in September, 2010 as specialized office to support such young people as college students who search job and graduates who did not obtain job. Those offices provide information about local/nationwide jobs and have an advice service for job hunting as well as hold seminars and job fairs throughout the year.

Moreover, by cooperating with universities, 'Hello Work' offices send e-mail newsletters to universities with information about career interview events targeting graduates, offer employment assistance such as practice interview meeting with resident supporters at colleges, and have a counseling booths at business briefing conference at campus to implement the consultation for students who are not prospective employees.

(2) Practice of career education at schools and governmental efforts to support them

- Elementary students "Dream - Perfect Job Experience" workplace tours (Chiba prefecture)

Chiba prefecture conducts "Dream - Perfect Job Experience" project in which children can closely observe the people who work in companies and government offices. The aim of the project is promoting the "enhancement of career education with emphasis on practice, training, and field experience". The project focuses primarily on elementary schools children. For half a day elementary school students can closely participate in the adults work, observe the appearance of adults working on the job, feel the atmosphere that adults spend at work, learn the importance of

manners and greetings, in order to broaden the imagination in the future dreams about work. The aim is to provide students opportunity to think about the meaning of work and study at school for future work by observing closely the work of adults and having a conversation with adults, to be an introductory activity of work experience program in middle school, and to be like a home-school-community forum raising children who will lead the next generation together.

- Learning the rights of workers, teaching practice from the perspective of creating skills and network

In Osaka, in order to support high schools that focus on practical career education and vocational education, "business schools promote practical career education" project is conducted.

One of the designated schools for the project, Fukusen Osaka Prefectural High School, is focusing on career education for each grade for creating realistic images of future work, understanding the paths leading to the occupation of interest and introducing strategies to proactively strive toward one's goals. A class on modern society lead by teacher Junichiro Inuma (currently in Sakai Higashi High School) is unique.

The class focuses on research studies by using "living" and "working" teaching materials and students study seek advice of professionals such as lawyers and judicial scriveners. It aims to connect to a network that can mutually help in the future if a need arises, by participating to the real world by taking advantage of the skills learned in the classroom and by taking a variety of networks of relationships in high school as a base.

One of the topics of the class titled "Let's get a written contract of employment (Labor Contract) from the part-time job employer." This topic comes from the point of view of necessity of studies of not-full-time workers' "working rights." In class, while receiving the advice of experts, students are gaining the knowledge and skills required to work, by actually getting a written contract of employment from the part-time job employer, making it the material for group discussions, and making a presentation of the situation when the request to make a contract of employment was expressed (negotiations with the employers who were not willing to provide the contract, expressing gratitude to those employers that have taught useful knowledge).

- Career Education Symposium (Sponsored by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare)

On January 26, 2012, the symposium that brings together educators, career education companies and other stakeholders was held in Yurakucho-Marion, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

In order to promote career education, it is important that schools and concerned parties of local society and businesses make efforts together while recognizing the individual role of each organization.

The symposium was held by three ministries: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technolgy. The purpose was to promote career education through collaboration and cooperation of education concerned parties.

The symposium had a keynote presentation "Rather than choosing the given path in life, choose taking a path – find a job you would like so much" made by Mr. Otake Yoshiki, top adviser and founder of Aflac (American Family Life Assurance Co.), as well as a panel discussion with the theme of "The future of children created together - In the practice of career education," case presentations by Excellence Career Education Award-winning school officials and organizations, Career Education Award, Award from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Career Education Cooperation Promotion Award ceremony.

(3) Improving the work environment to make it possible to achieve work-life balance

According to the survey, 52.9% of young people chose "giving priority to family rather than work". In addition, many people answered "cherishing parents, living happily, raising children when they

become 40 years old". On the other hand, the "Vision for Children and Young People" emphasize efforts to promote the realization of the "work-life balance" as a review of the state of adult society. There are the efforts for companies and organizations that promote work-life balance.

Aiseikai social welfare organization (wlderly care welfare facilities) located in Okayama prefecture was awarded the Grand Prix Work-Life Balance Excellence Award organized by the "Civil movement for the next generation ~ Work-Life Balance Promotion Council" as a company that established an annual plan proposed by "balance support committee " in the workplace and reduced staff turnover.

As concrete efforts to improve job satisfaction and facilitate work for the employees, Aiseikai established child care facilities, as well as a child's birthday holiday (staff-holiday on a child's birthdays for children in pre-school up to junior high school) in order to increase the number of days the workers spend with family, no-overtime day, career development training as an opportunity for staff to challenge themselves depending on the experience, and the committee consisting of approximately 20 supporting staff-member all in child-rearing, for making a proposal for creating a workplace that is comfortable to work at.

By these efforts, the staff turnover rate in this nursing home is lower than the national average, which is said to be high for nursing homes in general. In addition, despite the difficult job situation in the nursing industry, new graduates from outside the city and outside the prefecture have applied, which led to the stability of securing the human resources in the region of population decline. Furthermore, self-realization through work was achieved by working personnel, and the users' evaluations of service aspects and staff attitude are high.



## **Part 2 Measures for Children and Young People**

### **Chapter 1 Promoting the Policies on Development and Support for Children and Young People in a Comprehensive and Systematic Manner**

#### **Section 1 Background**

(National Youth Development Policy)

In June 2003, Headquarters for Youth Development, where the Prime Minister is chief and all cabinet ministers are member, was established in June 2003. It devised "National Youth Development Policy 2003" showing the medium-and-long term direction of upbringing the youth in our country in December, 2003.

Then it reviewed the Policy corresponding to the change of the times and devised "National Youth Development Policy 2008 " in December 2008.

After that, there have been efforts to make laws and/or policies such as the declining birthrate society measures, the action to protect a child from a crime, the juvenile delinquent measures, the promotion of the food education, the support of the social independence of the youth.

#### **Section 2 Actions based on the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People**

(the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People / Vision for Children and Young People)

Because of the environmental aggravation around children and youth, and of the complexity that the youth hold such as NEETs (not in employment, education, and training), social withdrawal and a school truancy as well as the limitation of conventional way of doing hierarchy-like correspondence in each field, the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People was enacted in July, 2009 and came into effect in April 1, 2010. The act ask the government for 1) establishing the headquarters for policies on children and young people and formulating a basic policy, 2) preparing for the framework of comprehensive promotion of the policies on development and support for children and young people such as regional plans and one-stop consultation, and 3) developing network infrastructure to support children and young people who have difficulty in social life.

Cabinet Office started immediately after enforcement of the act to devise a basic policy for children and young people. It established working team consisting of minister of state, vice-minister, parliamentary secretary and experts since January, 2010. In the process, the team held the meeting where minister listen to children and young people.

With the enforcement of the Act on April 1, 2010, "Headquarters for Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People" was installed as a special organization at Cabinet Office. In the headquarter, the Prime Minister is General Manager, the Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister of State in charge of children and young people are deputy general managers: other all cabinet ministers are members in the office.

In July, the Headquarters devised "Vision for children and young people" as a basic policy based on the Act after having performed opinion offers from the nation and the local public entity.

(Checking and evaluating the Vision)

Based upon decision made by General Manager of the Headquarters, the Meeting of the Examination and Evaluation of the Measures to Develop and Support Children and Young People was established in July, 2011 in order to perform checking and evaluating about the situation of the measure based on the Vision. The meeting consists of 20 members of experts and the youth.

The meeting established two subgroups in order to advance more detailed deliberation. The first is to check and evaluate the enforcement situation of the measure based on the Vision. The second is to clarify positioning of children and young people in the policy making.

At the first sectional meeting, focused agendas were 1) vocational independence of the youth and support of employment for them, 2) support of a child and the youth affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Members went through the hearings from the relevant ministries and agencies, the investigation about the way of thinking of the youth about the working, the hearing about support to the child of a refuge area and the stricken area of the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster.

At the second sectional meeting, members discussed and arranged the needs, significance about participation of children and the youth in policymaking process. While implementing hearings of the trends of the participation of the youth in policy planning in European Union and other foreign countries, the meeting members investigated the current situation and challenges of the young people's opinions offer that has been already in place in our country, and the usage of new media for such purpose.

## **Chapter 2 Providing Support for Healthy Development of All Children and Young People**

### **Section 1 Support for the self-development of children and young people**

(Acquisition of daily life skills)

In the school education, instructions to plan the formation of a basic lifestyle are carried out through the whole instructional activities of the school including morality and extracurricular activities based on courses of study.

The new course of study aims to enrich moral education, focusing especially on instructions to the lower grades at elementary school for the basic lifestyles such as greetings, the rules in the social life, judgment between the right and wrong and not doing anything immoral that you must not do as a human being.

(Provision of opportunities of various activities)

The purposes of International exchange initiative for the young people by Cabinet Office are that young Japanese learn global knowledge through a variety of sense of values of each country's young people and young people from overseas deepen the understanding of our country and to grow friendship with the young Japanese, based upon mutual trust as a basis.

This initiative is providing a valuable opportunity to be able to experience various values beyond everyday life by the interchange with each country's young people. The voluntary activities by the Japanese who have already participated in the initiative, through exchange activities with foreigners, have been offering them opportunities to learn the culture that is different from themselves and various values continuously.

(Financial assistance)

The Act on "non-collection of the tuition of the public senior high school and financial backing to support attending senior high schools" is enacted on March 31, 2010 and came into effect from April 1, the same year.

Under this Act, the tuition of a public high school has become free, at the same time the system that gives financial aid for private high school attendance has been established.

### **Section 2 Support for the social development and social participation of children and young people**

(Support for participation in the formation of society)

Cabinet Office carries out "Youth Public Opinion initiative" in which Cabinet Office listen to opinions about social various problems in order to enrich measures and increase youth's social awareness.

The Office chose approximately 300 children and youths (From the ages of junior high students and younger than 30 years old) as "Youth Special Report Members " by an open call for participants. The Office collects their opinions about specific policy problems by e-mail, making use of them for planning measures for children and young people.

### **Section 3 Ensuring the health and security of children and young people**

(Ensuring and improving health)

The Act on school health was revised in June, 2008 and was taken effect as the Act on school health security in April, 2009.

This revision enhanced the health instruction for child students by the cooperation between teachers and school nurses as well as first aid, health consultation and the instruction for students by cooperation with local medical institutions.

(Improvement of counseling systems)

The Government supports the expense that is necessary to locate the school “professional counselors” in all approximately 10,000 public junior high school schools and 12,000 board schools in 2011. Also, it supports the expense that is necessary for the 24-hour and through-the-year telephone consultations for children the Board of Education of each prefecture and government-decreed cities have.

In addition, the Government supports the expenses necessary for the appropriate placement of school social worker who have special knowledge and techniques about social welfare as well as education, so that they will be able to support children having problems by coping with various circumstances where children are underneath and utilizing networks with organizations concerned such as children consultation centers.

### **Section 4 Support for the vocational independence and employment of young people**

(Acquisition of employment skills and motivation)

In January 2011, the Central Council of Education reported "the way of a career education, the vocational education in the future school". The report proposed concrete policies of 1) systematic promotion of career education from early childhood education to higher education, 2) practical vocational education and its reevaluation and 3) career formation support from the viewpoint of lifelong study (such as the enhancement of the lifelong study opportunity and support for the dropout).

Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare has been implementing "career education specialty talented person training initiative", This initiative develops professionals who plan and operate career education by using its expertise of career consulting as public welfare labor administration since 2010 in order to enhance the career education in junior and senior high schools prior to career decisions. In 2010, the Ministry implemented the initiative for the persons that were engaged in the career education of high schools and, in 2011, carried it out for people engaged in the career education of junior high schools.

## **Chapter 3 Supporting Children, Young People and Their Families Facing Difficulties**

### **Section 1 Efforts according to type of difficulty**

(Support for NEETs, social withdrawal and school truancy)

Cabinet Office carries out "The Local Support Network System for Children and Young People initiative" in order to promote the setting of the Local Support Network System for Children and Young People. In addition, the Office carries out various training programs including one aiming at developing the human resources involved in support such as home-visit support (outreach).

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare installed "Regional Youth Support Stations" in each area in order to support for the vocational independence of young people such as NEETs. The RYSS perform the specialized consultations for the each case of youth and act as the core of the network of the youth support in the area. In 2011, the number of the RYSS was increased (110 places, ten places increase compared with the previous fiscal year). Moreover, they carry out home-visit support (outreach) to high school truancy, life support for the people who shifted to public vocational training and continuous support for improving the basic abilities such as scholastic ability.

(Support for children and young people with disabilities)

Based upon "The Act on Child Welfare " and "The Act on Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities", cities, towns, and villages provides the necessary welfare services such as a home help or the child day service, so that children and youth with disabilities live in peace in their community. About the disability health welfare, it has been decided at "a basic course for promotion of the person with a disability system reform" approved in a Cabinet meeting in June, 2010 to aim at "the enactment of the Act on general welfare for person with disabilities" (tentative name) containing provision of support without hollow among institutions and establishment of the system for regional life support based on each person's needs. The decision brought an abolishment of a current "the Act on Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities". Therefore, comprehensive examination regarding the disability health welfare including support for children with disabilities is going forward at the meetings of promoting reform of persons with disabilities system.

In addition, based on the Act promulgated on December 10, 2010, support for children with disabilities has been reinforced by, for instance, unifying the current institutions currently being classified according to the types of disabilities, so that children with disabilities could obtain support in a familiar area.

Furthermore, "the Act on persons with developmental disabilities" was implemented on April 1, 2005. The Act establishes duties of people and national/regional government to promote the understanding of autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and the learning-disabled developmental disability (LD) and to support persons with developmental disabilities in regions. The government promote establishment of "support center for persons with developmental disabilities" which performs the consultation support for persons with developmental disabilities and their family, in cooperation with the people concerned such as medical care, health, the welfare, education and the employment. As of the end of FY2011, there are such facilities in 65 prefectures and designated cities (The city of Sagami-hara will install it in FY 2012).

(Response to problems of child poverty)

The relative poverty ratio becomes 16.0% in total and 15.7% for children in latest FY2010, calculated by using the National Livelihood Survey. On the other hand, the relative poverty ratio of the household with wage-earner and a child is 14.6%; as for the ratio of the household with one adult is 50.8%; the ratio of the household with more than one adult is with 12.7%.

In addition, according to the relative poverty ratio of the OECD member nations until the mid-2000s calculated by OECD, the relative poverty ratio of our country becomes the 27th place out of 30 OECD member countries and the ratio of the household with one adult with a child to become particularly highest.

From such indexes, families with one parent raising children are particularly poor economically.

Therefore, the Ministry has reinforced such measures as the employment support for financial independence. In addition, the eligibility of child-rearing allowance for mother-child family was enlarged for father-child family from August 2010. Also, the Ministry provides with additional amount for welfare mothers.

(Creating places for children and young people facing difficulties)

The police carry out guidance such as advice and instruction for juvenile delinquents continuously in order for them not to repeat delinquency. Moreover, it promotes supportive activities for children facing difficulties such as creating places such as the social service activity and society participation activity from a point of view of improvement of the social norm and the reinforcement of the bond with the society positively.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare promotes “Foster parent system” and enriches the system to support foster parents. The “Foster Parent Support Institution Project” has been implemented from FY2008, in which support for foster parents’ child raising, such as the coordination of communication between foster parents and related institutions, visitation support for foster families and the promotion of mutual exchanges among foster families, and the active dissemination and education of the foster parent system are comprehensively being implemented.

In addition, the Ministry plans to expand “the independence support home” where children and young people looking for jobs can live after having left the child nursing homes. Furthermore, the ministry put group homes (local small child nursing home) in place by utilizing private houses of the community, supported by the main body of the child nursing home and the proper relationships with the neighbors.

In addition, detailed supports are offered by the aftercare initiative for children and young people who had left the child nursing homes and found a job but did not continue their jobs, or those who could not secure the bases of their lives, so that they could enjoy regional live with social independence.

(Support for children and young people who need particular attention such as foreigners)

When the non-Japanese children in the compulsory education stage wish to attend public schools, the schools accept them by free like Japanese children, based upon International Covenants on Human Rights. It includes the free distribution of the textbooks and school expense subsidies, guaranteeing an equal opportunity to get an education, which is the same as Japanese children do.

## **Section 2      Prevention of suffering and the protection of children and young people**

(Measures to prevent child abuse)

The number of consultations about the child abuse in child consultation centers nationwide continues increasing and become 56,384 cases (except Fukushima prefecture) in 2010. This is approximately 4.8 times just before the Act on Child Abuse Prevention. Child Abuse Prevention is an urgent and important problem that needs countermeasures as an entire society.

(Measures against crimes that harm the welfare of children and young people)

The government promotes child porno exclusion measures with cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies based on "child porno exclusion general countermeasures" (July 2010).

Child porno and the child prostitution obstruct the Child Rights and the healthy upbringing of children remarkably. They have become the problem globally. Particularly, the Police enforce strict regulations on child porno actively based on "the Act on Prohibition of Child Prostitution and Child Porno law" because child porno cases are in extremely serious situation.

# **Chapter 4 Improving the Environment for the Healthy Development of Children and Young People to be Supported by Society as a Whole**

## **Section 1 Environmental improvement**

(Rebuilding of relationships among families, schools, and local communities)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology implement "the school support area headquarters initiative" where local inhabitants support schools as volunteers carrying out the assistance to class, story-telling and environmental maintenance, and commuting to and from school patrol from FY2008. There are 2659 headquarters in 570 cities, towns and villages in FY2011.

From FY2011, it continues to promote an action of "the school support area headquarters" in "the education support activity promotion initiative by a school, home, and the community".

Through such actions, promotion of an open school is expected by strengthening cooperation between school and stakeholders out of school.

(Promotion of the efforts of various entities)

In each city and district municipalities, the setting of "an area network to protect a child (Aid-requiring child measures area meeting) " is going forward to share information and the way of thinking about a child and the family among relative organizations and to cope with it under cooperation. The ratio of city and district municipalities installing the network and other voluntary abuse prevention network is 98.7% as of April 1, 2010.

(Measures to counter the harmful environments surrounding children and young people)

In June, 2009, "Basic Plan on Measures for Providing Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People" was formulated based on the Act on Development of an Environment that Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People. The plan include 1) promotion of education and enlightenment allowing children and young people to use the Internet independently and at their own initiative, 2) enforcement of the enlightenment activity to allow protectors to manage the young using the Internet appropriately, 3) promotion of the actions by private companies to prevent the young people from being involved in information harmful to young people, 4) promotion of solutions to the problem in the Internet by voluntary citizen. Based upon the Act and the plan, relative ministries and private sectors concerned carry out measures of environmental infrastructure for the young people to feel safe to use the Internet.

As a part of "urgent measures to diffuse filtering to cell-phone of the young" implemented in March 2011, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and National Police Agency respectively informed cell-phone companies that they have to strengthen their explanations to protectors. Moreover, at the same time, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, National Police Agency and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry informed cell-phone sales agents of the contents for the cell phone company mentioned above.

## **Section 2 Reconsider of how our adult society should be**

(Support of balancing work and child-care)



For the purpose of maintaining the environment where men and women can raise their children while both working, a part of the Act on Child Care and Family Care Leave was revised in June, 2009 and was enforced on June 30, 2010. The reduced working hours system that is not currently applied to companies with the number of employees less than 100, and the system limiting the non-predetermined labor and family-care leave will be effective from July 1, 2012.

Moreover, in order to make the environment where children carrying the next generation are born and raised in good health, the country, local public entities, entrepreneurs, and the citizens push forward support the development of the next generation, respectively, based upon the Act for Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation,.

According to this act, companies that have made action plans, practiced according to the plan and have accomplished the plans will receive the authorization of the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare. This allows those companies to use the mark of authorization (Nickname: Kurumin). In order to raise the recognition of this authorized system and authorized mark, the Ministry proactively explains merits to receive it, shows the cases of the authorized companies and at the same time, publicizes tax benefit for authorized companies, established in June 2011.

## **Chapter 5 Framework for the Promotion of Future Measures**

### **International Coordination and Cooperation**

(Cooperation with the activities of international organizations)

Our country is a contracting party of "Convention on the Rights of the Child", "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict" and "Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ". These treaties demand a contracting party to report regularly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child comprised of experts about the measures taken for the enforcement of the Convention.

Japan submitted the third government report for the Convention and the first governmental report for the two Optional Protocols in April 2008. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reviews our reports in May, 2010 and announced a last opinion based on this examination in June of the same year.

The government attempt to ensure the enforcement of the Convention treaty and two optional Protocols based on the purpose of the last opinion.