

**Section 2****Development of Measures for the Aging Society****1****Efforts toward Comprehensive Promotion of Measures for the Aging Society**

- The National Council on Social Security  
As a place for discussing the point view of the people of the future direction of reformations, including the ideals of social security and the problem of financial sources, the National Council on Social Security was held in January, 2008.  
Subsequently, for about ten months, a total of 31 conferences, including 3 Subsections under the authority of the conferences (“Subsection on Income Security and Guarantee” for discussing pensions and employment, “Subsection on Service Security” for discussing medicine, care and welfare, and “Subsection on Establishment of Sustainable Society” for discussing problems of the declining birthrate and harmony between work and live styles), were held, where various social security problems were then discussed.
- “Five Plans for a Sense of Security: An Emergency Measure for Strengthening Social Security Functions”  
In July 2008, in view of the apprehension and dissatisfaction expressed by the people on the present status of social security, careful measures were discussed with regard to the following 5 problems from the point of view of the people, measures to be immediately taken, and the processes of implementing those measures, with the “Five Plans for a Sense of Security: An Emergency Measure for Strengthening Social Security Functions” then being created.
  - (1) Society where elderly people can live energetically and with a sense of security.
  - (2) Society where everybody can receive medical services if they are apprehension about their health.
  - (3) Society that protects and rears the “children” on whom its future depends.
  - (4) Society where people working as temporary staff and part-time workers can have hopes for their futures.
  - (5) Restoration of confidence in administration of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
- Efforts toward realization of a “Society where people can work in good health for life”  
In July 2008, regarding measures for realizing a “Society where people can work in good health for life” by strengthening the sense of security and energy of elderly people, each ministry and agency collected new and more main data on the following items that it is trying to grapple with in the budgetary request of fiscal 2009 or tax reform requests
  - (1) Securing and strengthening “a sense of security” in the social security system
  - (2) Establishing age-free work environments
  - (3) Mechanisms for utilizing elderly people’s wisdom and experience
  - (4) Utilizing assets for realizing secure and long lives
  - (5) Strengthening bonds between members of families and communities
  - (6) Extending health life expectancy with new technologies

**2****Policy Research for Comprehensive Promotion of Measures for the Aging Society**

- Surveys on the current status of life styles  
To understand the life difficulties that elderly people face it is necessary to comprehensively grasp factors such as poverty, health, and social solitude, and hence surveys were performed on the current status of their life styles with the view to understanding what is needed in implementing future measures for the aging society and contributing to the promotion of related measures.
- Survey on opinions on the participation of elderly people in regional societies  
As a general survey on measures for the aging society themes are set by the political field of measures for the aging society, and the opinions of elderly people and their changes revealed.  
In fiscal 2008 a survey on opinions regarding the participation of elderly people in regional societies was carried out from the following point of view: in order to create a warm hearted long living society, where everyone has a reason to live and is able to live full and secure lives, it is important that every citizen should participate in their regional society from their individual stance and cooperate with each other.