

1 Measures for the Aging Society in FY 2013

Promotion of Measures for the Aging Society

The main measures in FY 2013 are as follows:

(1) Initiatives for the comprehensive promotion

○ Social Security System Reform National Conference

Social Security System Reform National Conference (President: Atsushi Seike, President of Keio University) was established in compliance with the Law for the Promotion of Reform of Social Security System (Act No.64 of 2012, hereinafter referred to as “Reform Promotion Law”) enacted at the ordinary session of the Diet 2012. Its deadline for establishment is August 21, 2013.

The Conference is composed of 15 knowledgeable members and with regard to four fields, namely, Medical Insurance System including Medical System for Elderly Persons, Long-term Care Insurance System, Public Pension System, and Measures to Cope with Declining Birthrate, is holding discussions, following the fundamental concept of social security reform and basic policy for the reform provided for in the Reform Promotion Law, toward further materialization of reform of social security system.

As regard the future reform of social security system, based on the Reform Promotion Law and taking into consideration the status of consultation by actual staffs of three parties (Liberal Democratic, Komei and Democratic), discussions will be held at Social Security System Reform National Conference.

(2) Employment and Pension

○ Initiative for the realization of society people can work irrespective of their age

As an initiative for realization of a society where so long as the aged person is in good health and possesses the will and capability

to work, such aged person would be able to continue working irrespective of age (such society is hereinafter referred to as “Ageless active society”), we will select a core enterprise of the region and through the activities in such core enterprise, and create opportunity in the region for such society). We also will hold seminars for aged people on the occupational life planning. Thus, we will implement projects for realizing ageless active society and refine the environments toward its realization.

Further, starting in FY 2013, to promote the utilization of the elderly persons in the enterprises, we will support the entrepreneurs carrying out expansion of workplace for the aged persons, improvement of working environment, or refinement of their employment management system. For aged person close to the retirement age whose knowledge and experiences could be effectively utilized in other enterprise, and wish to continue to work, we will support entrepreneur who is going to employ such aged person through the introduction of employment agency, to maintain the employment of the elderly persons.

○ Establishment of Sustainable and Stable Public Pension System

In FY2013, the ratio of national treasury contribution to the Basic Pension is made to One-half (1/2) by virtue of special bonds for Pension. For FY 2014 and thereafter, it is planned to keep this 1/2 with the increase of consumption tax.

Under the Social Security System Reform Promotion Law, it is decided that the future reform of public pension system will be discussed, considering the status and estimate of national finance, etc. at Social Security System.

Reform National Conference and will obtain the conclusion. Along with this policy, we will work out for the

establishment of sustainable and stable public pension system.

- **Responses to low or zero pension issue**
We will work out for the smooth implementation of the bills promulgated in FY 2012 such as shortening of qualifying period for receiving the pension and payment of supporting allowances for people living on pension.

- **Structuring of pension system which is neutral to the style of working or choice of life course.**
We will work out for the smooth implementation of the bills promulgated in FY 2012 such as extended application of social securities to the short time workers or exemption of social insurance premium during maternity leave, etc.

(3) **Health, Long-term Care and Medical Treatment**

- **Promotion of Life-long Health Promotion**
In July 2012, in order to promote national health promotion movement for the next 10 years, we compiled “Health Japan 21 (the second term)” indicating concrete target, etc. for supporting and protecting the health and refurbishing the social environment. We decided to continue “Smart Life Project” to promote spreading of health promotion activities in cooperation with local community organizations, related group organizations as well as business enterprises.

- **Promotion of supporting measures for the aged persons with dementia**
We will endeavor to promote steady implementation of “5 year plan for the promotion of measures for dementia” announced in September 2012. We systematically structure supporting system so that the persons with dementia and their family members can live without anxiety. Concretely, we will promote the measures based on the following seven perspectives:
 - 1) Preparation of standard care-pass of dementia and its spreading
 - 2) Early diagnosis, early responses,

- 3) Structuring of medical services to support life in the region
 - 4) Structuring of long-term care services to support life in the region
 - 5) Strengthening of support for the daily life in the region and support for the family members
 - 6) Strengthening of measures against dementia of younger age.
 - 7) Training of talented personnel engage in medical and long-term care services
- Through promotion of these measures, we try to establish a system where elderly persons with dementia can live as long as possible in the accustomed good environment.

- **Providing of integrated sustainable home medical and long-term care**
Taking into account that it was decided that starting in FY 2013, in the regional medical plan, “the target to be attained relevant to home medical care and medical liaison system” have to be described clearly, we will support the activities performed by prefectural governments utilizing regional medicine renovation fund.
Also, to structure a system in which different professions can cooperate as a team and provide liaised care of home medical and long-term care services in the region, we will support workshops which regional leaders of prefectures and municipalities offer for many various professions related to home medical and long-term care.

(4) **Social Participation and Learning**

- **Promotion of Social Participation Activities by aged People**
We will implement “Project for promoting activities worth living for elderly persons.” Aged persons who retired the enterprise, etc. would be able to work vividly having a certain role in the regional society, or obtaining a certain income by paid volunteer activity, engage in activities leading to his value worth living and health promotion and at the same time to become foundation of services for preventive long-term care and life support.

Solving the policy issues brought by the aged society, and to study how should be the information communication technology (ICT) toward the establishment of new social model, since December 2012, “ICT Super Aging Society Conception Conference” has been held. In the Basic Proposal of this Conference, the three visions Japan has to aim at are presented: These are:

- I. Maintain health of your body for a long time, and live in self-supporting manner
- II. Work with purpose of life and participate in society, and
- III. Creation of new industry and its global development

We will study how to utilize the ICT for the realization of the above.

○ **Providing of wide variety of learning opportunities at School**

Public schools are the place for study and living for school children, and

At the same time, schools are the base point for regional communities.

We are going to provide state subsidy for the improvement of its facilities and by providing the guideline for improving school facilities, we will promote the refurbishing of facilities that will promote the positive utilization by regional residents

As to the surplus class rooms of elementary schools and middle schools, we will extend our support so that regional public groups may try to divert them for their social education facilities, or sports and culture facilities

(5) **Living environment**

○ **Environmental Improvement of Existing House Circulation and Reforming Market**

Based on “Comprehensive plan for renovation and distribution of existing home” (established in March 2012), we will promote spreading of inspections performing examination and survey and will elaborate the providing of information on reforming businesses to the consumers

and enhancement of warranty against defect insurance.

We will conduct support for the barrier-free and earth-quake resistant repair works carried out together with eco-reforms. We will promote energy saving of housing and barrier free and quake resisting housing.

○ **Comprehensive promotion of town construction paying attention to the aged**

In the disaster stricken area, it is indispensable to promote the town reconstruction paying attention to changes in social structure such as progress of aging, decrease in population, as well as environment. To support rehabilitation that will newly create environmental value, social value and economic value where everybody wishes to live and where everybody feels vitality, we will support model projects in the fields of aging and low birthrate, and environmental measures.

○ **Securing of Traffic Safety**

In order to decrease the number of traffic accidents while elderly persons are walking, or riding bicycles, we will give traffic safety education for the elderly people by the elderly persons. Since this method is considered to promote the sympathy feeling and to enhance the understanding of the participants of the lectures, we will launch a model project “Senior Leaders” where selected elderly persons are educated as the leaders and they, in turn, offer traffic safety education for other elderly people.

○ **Protection from Crimes, Human Rights Violation and Fraudulent Business Practices**

To prevent the secondary damages of the aged by fraudulent business practice, we will implement, in collaboration with local communities, 1) watching service by periodical phoning, 2) collection of information and evidence through deployment of recording equipment at residence of the aged requesting

cooperation. We take up these cases as model project and grasp the effect for prevention of damages and effect of strong implementation of the law.

(6) Activation of market corresponding to Aging Society and Promotion of Survey and Research.

○ **Promotion of innovation in the medical related fields**

We will elaborate the most recent medical environment people can use with confidence. Utilizing our country's capability to manufacture, we will develop innovative pharmaceuticals and medical equipment and at the same time promote regenerative medicine, and promote innovation in medical related fields, through these efforts, we will aim at realizing healthy and aged society and look forward to realization of economic growth and aggressive development of overseas market.

(7) Construction of Foundation corresponding to Super-Aging Society with Participation of All Generations

○ **Promotion of Measures for non-regular workers**

As the legislative measures, to respective forms of employment such as dispatched workers, fixed-term contract workers, and part timers, we will promote steady implementation of the Revised Worker Dispatching Act (promulgated in March 2012) and will disseminated the Revised Labor Contract Act (promulgated in August 2012)

Further, we will perform securing of equal/equivalent treatment for part-time workers, promote transfer to regular workers, for short time workers, we give guidance under the law concerning improvement of employment management for the short time workers, consultation and assistance by experts, assistance with the use of financial aid, and support of introduction of job analysis, and job evaluation.