

Chapter II Mutual Understanding and Exchange

1 Enlightenment and Raising Public Awareness

In order to promote the realization of a "Cohesive Society" as described in the Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities and to promote the diffusion of its ideas, the public understanding of disabilities and persons with disabilities has to progress; meanwhile, in order to obtain cooperation from the public in terms of concern for Persons with Disabilities, it is important to actively foster awareness and publicity activities with wide public participation.

Based, among other things, on the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, enlightenment and public information activities are actively being held, with all sorts of events organized intensively around the "Week of Persons with Disabilities" (December 3rd to the 9th) across the entire country by both officials and citizens, this in order to promote public interest in disabilities and persons with disabilities, to deepen public understanding, and to raise the public conscience regarding the participation of persons with disabilities in society.

The government has promoted welfare education, as well as "Joint Activities and Learning" for children with and without disabilities as part of school curricula. Moreover, it has also promoted the public understanding of persons with disabilities through enlightenment and publicity activities for local residents and public service employees, as well as through the promotion of volunteer activities.

【Main Measures, etc.】

- In the New Five-year Program, because the enlightenment and awareness-raising of young people who will shoulder the burden in the future is crucial, the target awareness rate of the "Cohesive Society" among people in their 20s was set to the same rate, 50%, as that of all other generations.

- "Spirit-enhancing Events to Better Understand Persons with Disabilities" were held, such as collecting and giving awards for "Composition on the Experiences that widened the Circle of Hearts" and "Poster for the Week of the Persons with Disabilities," writing experiences about the intermingling of minds with persons with disabilities from primary and secondary school pupils across the entire country. Compilations of winning essays and posters were made and distributed in primary, secondary and high schools across the country, etc., promoting a better public understanding of persons with disabilities.

○ During fiscal 2011's "Week of Persons with Disabilities" in Tokyo, on December 2nd the "Persons with Disabilities Forum 2011" was held. An Awards ceremony for "Composition on the experiences that widened the circle of hearts" and "Posters for the Week of the Persons with Disabilities," as well as the reading aloud of winning essays, was organized. Also, in Tokyo an exhibition of the original winning essays and nominated pieces from all over the country was held.

Furthermore, a symposium with the theme, "Inquiries into Changes of The Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities" was held. In addition, "Continuation of the Persons with Disabilities Week Seminar" was held in which numerous related organizations took turns contributing to the discussions on various themes regarding persons with disabilities-including themes on natural disasters and relations with persons with disabilities.



The 2011 Persons with Disabilities Forum

○ In Osaka—under the patronage of the Cabinet and of the Kansai Economic Federation—a symposium organized by local NGOs dealing with support for persons with disabilities was held on the theme "Aiming for a Society in which anyone can live cohesively with other members of society; in light of 3/11 issues to be dealt with from here on." Beyond that, the State and regional public bodies as well as related NGOs actively held events of their own such as enlightenment and publicity events, beginning with NHK's "Heart Exhibition" and "Barrier-free" demonstrations organized by regional transportation bureaus.

○ Enlightenment and publicity activities designed to forge a better understanding of Persons with Disabilities were held during the "Month for Supporting Employment of Persons with Disabilities" (September 1st to the 30th), the "Mental

Health and Welfare Promotion Activities" (October 24th to 30th) and "Human Rights Week" (December 4th to 10th).

○However it may be that every April 2nd is, "World Autism Awareness Day, " due to the influence of the East Japan Disaster of 2011, under the patronage of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Welfare and Japan Autism Society, a symposium was organized on June 18th for promoting the diffusion in Japan of a proper understanding of developmental disabilities, beginning with autism.

○From the point of view of promoting comprehensive and efficient "barrier-free universal design" in terms of both infrastructural and human resources and in order to ensure that everybody, including persons with disabilities, are able to lead peaceable lives in society, the Prime Minister Award was established for, among other things, recognizing meritorious service and notable contributions of organizations and individuals to the promotion of "barrier-free universal design." In fiscal 2011, 7 organizations were awarded.

○The Cabinet Office uploaded videos, sound, sign language and a word summary of the "Committee for Disability Policy Reform" through the Cabinet Office homepage. Also the document for the conference was uploaded on the homepage before the conference began.

○ In order to rear leaders who will become the central pillars of social activities and build a "cohesive society," the Cabinet Office created "Core Leader Education Programs for Participation of Youth in Society." In fiscal 2011, nine young people were dispatched to New Zealand and a total of thirteen young leaders were invited to Japan from the Denmark, New Zealand and Germany in fields related to persons with disabilities.

○The police have begun training for their new recruits by taking them directly from the first stages of employment from police academies and police departments directly to visit persons with disabilities service facilities, and to hear lectures by expert service facility staff, with the aim of helping them to better understand how to communicate with and care for persons with disabilities.

○For correctional facility officers and staff, in correctional training support

amenity and eight brunches throughout the country, lectures about proper correspondence and support in light of the following subjects: human rights protection, sign language and mental health. Additionally, hand-on experience training of care taking at welfare facilities in order to foster better understanding of persons with disabilities is being conducted.

2 International Cooperation

As one of the basic policies of the Japanese government's foreign assistance and development program—which seeks to maintain an impartiality that includes the consideration of persons with disabilities —broad technical cooperation is being employed through the dispatching abroad of both young cooperative units and of specialists, through the welcoming of foreign researchers, and through grant aids for the establishment of rehabilitation facilities and vocational training facilities for persons with disabilities.

【Main Measures】

- In terms of loans, Japan is promoting barrier-free design in the construction of railway and airport facilities with consideration to the use by persons with disabilities. In fiscal year 2011, eight projects related to the consideration of persons with disabilities were committed. In terms of grant assistance, Japan supported the construction of rehabilitation centers and vocational training facilities as well as the supply of mini-buses for persons with disabilities. In addition to the above projects, in fiscal year 2011, Japan supported 39 projects for persons with disabilities, which were carried out by NGOs, educational institutions, local governments, through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects.

- Japan has implemented a variety of technical cooperation, which includes dispatch of experts, acceptance of trainees and other projects through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In fiscal year 2011, Technical Cooperation projects such as "Project for Supporting Social Welfare Administration Phase 2" in Myanmar were newly started.

- Concerning the support through Japanese NGO activities, eleven projects supporting persons with disabilities were assisted through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects in fiscal year 2011.