Chart 3: Basic Act for Disabled Persons Partial Revision Legislation [Summary]

Basic Act for Disabled Persons Partial Revision Legislation [Summary] [67/29/2011 Completed]

eneral Rules and Related Topics (Promulgation Date and Legislation Enforcement)

#### 1) Revision of Objective Regulations (Regarding Article 1)

 As a guiding principle, all people shall be treated fairly as individuals regardless of whether they do or do not have disabilities. No one shall be singled out for being a person with disabilities. All people's individual characters shall be respected in the realization of a cohesive society.

#### 2) Iterision of the Definition of Person with Disabilities (legarding Article 2)

 The Definition shall include: Physical disabilities, mental disabilities, psychological disabilities (including developmental disabilities), also to include other persons with mental and physical functional disabilities, to particular, the definition indicates those with disabilities that as a result have barriers to social participation (such barriers including systems, customary practices, ideas, etc.) continuously to the point that it affects their daily laves and limits their abilities to participate in society.

#### 3) Cohesive Societies (Repuding Article 3)

1) Accordingly, in order to realize this society, all persons with disabilities should be treated equally to others without disabilities. Furthermore, must retain their fundamental human rights and be respected as individuals. As such, whatever life style suits them should be honored as their rights. The following items categorize the way in which this shall be accomplished.

All persons with disabilities should have the right to opportunities to participate in activities in all fields.

\*All persons with disabilities should have the right to choose with whom they live and not be restricted to live with anyone in society.

•All persons with disabilities should have the right to choose the language by which they communicate-including sign language and other forms of communication. Also, their choices regarding the ways in which they obtain information should be expanded upon.

#### 4) Prohibition of Discrimination (Regarding Article 4)

-It is prohibited to use the disability of a person as a reason to restrict them from any rights and or benefits.

•As part of the effort to ind society of entry barners, according to the needs of persons with disabilities at any one time, whenever it is possible, their needs should be met as part of these efforts.

The nation will gather, prepare and publicize whatever necessary information there may be in order to prohibit discrimination.

#### 5) International Coordination (Regarding Article 5)

1) Accordingly, in order to realize this society, efforts must be coordinated internationally.

6) Understanding from the People (Regarding Article 7)/ The Duty of the People (Regarding Article 8).

\*It is necessary to enact policy to raise understanding on the part of the nation as well as local public organizations in regards to the fundamental principles stipulated by items 3) through 5].

•Efforts must be put forth to see that the people, in accordance with the fundamental principles as a guide, make contributions to the realization of the society specified in item 1).

#### Z) General Policy (Regarding Article 10)

Policy and services must be enforced with respect to the character differences, sex, conditions of disabilities and life style varieties of the person with disabilities in question.

The opinions of persons with disabilities and that of others who may be concerned, should be respected.

### **General Related Policy**

## (Day of Promulgation and Execution of Policy)

#### 1) Medical Care and Nursing Care (Regarding Article 14)

 It is essential to have policy that provides medical care, nursing and health care support for persons with disabilities with keeping in mind the differences in character, various conditions of the disabilities, and life style variations of the person with disabilities in question.

 As well as fully respecting the human rights of the person with disabilities, it is essential to administer policy that sees that medical care and nursing care is provided at nearby locations to the person with disabilities.

#### 2) Education (Regarding Article 16)

It is important to ensure policy that in accordance with the age and ability level of the person with disabilities, they are able to receive education. Also, it is important to ensure the enactment of policy that they may be educated along with students without disabilities and furthermore, that the proper service and policy reforms are enacted.

 The primary care takers of the pupil with disabilities must be provided with pertinent information. It is essential that this is respected to the fullest degree possible.

#### 3) Rehabilitation [New Installations] (Regarding Article 17)

 Necessary policy ensuring nearby rehabilitation and related support
The promotion of the spread of research and development as well as, training and developing professional specialists with the proper knowledge and skills; furthermore, advancements of environmental preparations.

#### 4) Vocational Consultation etc. (Regarding Article 18).

 Policy that works to ensure various employment opportunities, as well as ensuring vocational consultations that care to the needs of the particular disabilities of the person with disabilities and furthermore, occupational training.

#### 5) Employment Promotion (Regarding Article 19)

 Policy that promotes the prioritization of the employment of persons with disabilities in the government, local public organizations and other operations.

\*The employers will ensure the appropriate employment opportunities as well as, manage the employment with the various characteristics of each disability of the person with disability being employed.

#### 6) Safe Guarding Residents (Regarding Article 20)

 In order to ensure steady maintenance of life styles at the local societal level, policy that safe guards the advancement of residential provisions is necessary.
<u>Public Facilities Undergoing Barrier Free Changes (Regarding Article</u> 21)

 Promotions of plans that ensure the necessary structural preparations of public transportation facilities (automobile, marine vessel, airport and other such transportation facilities) and other public facilities, so that they may be easily accessible.

#### 8) Removal of Barriers to Access to Information (Regarding Article 22)

 Necessary policy that ensures that persons with disabilities may smoothly be able to access and use information, express their wills and have communication with others. Furthermore, policy that ensures intermediate persons to help them communicate and the training of such intermediate persons.

Necessary policy that ensures safety in the case of a natural disaster and that information in accordance, is quickly and accurately communicated.

### 9) Consultation (Regarding Article 23)

 Providing care to the wills and decisions as well as for consultation services of the families and associated parties of persons with disabilities.

 In order that persons with disabilities, their families and concerning parties are able to receive various specific and general consultation services, and to ensure a proper consultation service system, and support to aid in the abilities of persons with disabilities and their families to have mutually supportive relationships is essential.

### Various Cultural Conditions and Preparations (Regarding Article 25). Policy that ensures the ability to smoothly participate in cultural, art, sports and recreational activities is necessary.

#### 11) Preventing Disasters and Crime [New Installations] (Regarding Article 26). •In order to ensure that in maintaining general life styles, safety is preserved.

\*in order to ensure that in maintaining generat the styles, safety is preserved, it is necessary to enact policy that ensures the prevention of disasters and crime-with respect to the various conditions of the disabilities of the person, their life styles, characteristics and their sex.



In light of these hearings, systematic reform decisions have been carried out by the Cabinet, as well as proposals on policy reforms, and the reforms to the Persons with Disabilities Act were all submitted before the National Diet in April of 2011. All of which was approved by the National Diet as previously stated.

Due to efforts on the part of the office, regarding effective persons with disabilities policy affairs, recruitment of, "Writing Contest Posters"-which was then changed to –"Advertisement Posters" was directed at elementary and middles school students. Also, information was publicized regarding the National Social Welfare Committee Magazine. Due to these efforts and others, the highest number of people applied to participate in recent years.

In order to realize a cohesive society, the event, "Person with Disabilities Gathering," was changed to be called, "Persons with Disabilities Forum 2011." Due to related publicity leaflets and advice by volunteer specialists, the leaflets were made to be very easily comprehendible. Due to such efforts, the number of people who came to attend the event saw a 30% from previous years.

## 5 Details of the Measures Regarding Persons with Disabilities

## (1) The overall promotion of our country's measures for persons with disabilities

The overall promotion of our country's measures for persons with disabilities began in 1970 with the Basic Act on Measures for Persons with Mental or

Physical Disabilities. It was then reinforced with the opportunity of the "International Year of Persons with Disabilities" in 1981. In 1983, based on the proclamation of the "United Nations Decade of Persons with Disabilities" (a result of the "International Year of Persons with Disabilities"), the first long-term plan regarding measures for persons with disabilities was formed in our country. In 1993, the Basic Act on Measures for Persons with Mental or Physical Disabilities was revised into the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, demonstrating that measures for persons with disabilities were being promoted comprehensively and in an organized manner. With these developments taking place, a ten-year plan regarding the independence and participation in society of persons with disabilities were organized and, in keeping with the framework of the comprehensive and planned measures based on those plans, this framework has been followed to the present day.

In fiscal 2011 we reached the ninth year of the Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities that runs from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2012, and also the fourth year of the Five-Year Plan for the Implementation of Priority Measures, implemented under the Former Headquarters in December of 2007 and to be carried out during the second half of the aforementioned plan (hereafter referred to as the Second Half Five-Year Plan). These two plans list the measures to be taken by different government departments regarding persons with disabilities, measures aimed to realize a society trying to become a "Cohesive Society" in which every citizen respects and supports the personality and individuality of others, regardless of whether or not they have disabilities.

## (2) Act Reform

In June of 2004, reform measures Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities went into effect. With its targeted regulations, this revision demonstrated support towards the independence and participation in society of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, as its fundamental ideology, it banned discrimination based on disability and it established the "Week of Persons with Disabilities" (from December 3rd to the 9th).

It also set up the "Central Council for the Promoting of Measures for Persons with Disabilities" in the Cabinet Office, to both deal with the implementation of the aforementioned Basic Program and mandate the formation of a Disability Program by metropolitan and prefectural administrations, as well as by municipal administrations. Appointed by the Prime Minister, the members of this Council are scholars or people engaging in careers related to persons with disabilities and their welfare. In accordance with revisions to the Persons with Disabilities Act in fiscal year 2011, the same council came to be in charge of the, "Persons with Disabilities National Policy Committee."

In light of revisions to the act, systematic reforms have been carried out in different fields, thus constructing a systematic disabilities policy for modern Japan.

### (3) In the field of livelihood support

The Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act was put into effect in 2006;progressing towards a plan to promote local mobility and the reinforcement of employment support with the goal of building a society where one can live peaceably in one's region even if one has disabilities. Regarding the welfare services provided in accordance with different types of disabilities, a stable system was reformed through the reinforcement of the financial responsibility of the State and a reconsideration of the financial burden of recipients. Meanwhile, in light of the ideas put forth by the Reform Committee, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Cabinet declared the New General Direction for Persons with Disabilities Systems Reforms Promotion. At which point, in regards to the field of the health welfare of persons with disabilities, the, "Persons with Disabilities Independence Support Act" was abolished in order to create a system with no loop-holes in support services. The, "Persons with Disabilities Overall Welfare Act (short name)" was adopted in order to cover the previously mentioned support loop-hole issues, and to better meet the needs of individuals in need of the support system in the varying regions of the nation.

Regarding the contents of the new act, there were two years of debate at the, "General Welfare Department Meeting," in which vast numbers of persons with disabilities took part. Finally, in August of 2011, the department came out with the, "Persons with Disabilities General Welfare Act Proposal."

Afterwards, at the Democratic Party Ministry of Health and Welfare Peoples with Disabilities WT (Working Team) in July of the same year, deliberations were held on the formerly mentioned reform proposals.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> of 2012, at Headquarters, the, "Persons with Disabilities Act" was reformed to become the Persons with Disabilities Daily Life-Style and Societal Participation General Support Act (Persons with Disabilities General Support Act). Also, laws concerning the realization of a cohesive society for persons with disabilities in various regions throughout the nation through the establishment of health welfare policy reform were decided on. The formerly mentioned laws were declared by headquarters the following day on the 13<sup>th</sup> and also at the National Diet. See Diagram 5 for an outline of this.

## (4) Concerning persons with developmental disabilities

Concerning persons with developmental disabilities—for whom it had been formerly difficult to provide appropriate support within the three-pronged framework of physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and mental disorder—the Act for Supporting Persons with Developmental Disabilities was established in 2004 with the purpose of arranging a structure capable of providing unified support across the fields of employment, education, welfare, medical treatment and healthcare, as well as clarifying the definition of these types of disabilities.

## (5) Protection for Persons with Disabilities Who Undergo Abuse

Policy has been progressing in this area in order to provide care for persons with disabilities who have experienced abuse and support their care-givers and furthermore to prevent such abuse of persons with disabilities. As such, the, "Protection for Persons with Disabilities Who Undergo Abuse, and Support for Persons with Disabilities Care-Givers Act (Protection for Persons with Disabilities Who Undergo Abuse Act)" was established. Accordingly, a proposal by the lower house of the National Diet's Health, Welfare and Labor Committee

was submitted to the National Diet in June of 2006 and put into effect in October of 2012. For an outline of this, see Chart 6.

## (6) In the field of Life Environment

In the field of Life Environment, the "Ministers' Conference Regarding 'Barrier-Free'" was created in March of 2000 by an oral decision of the Cabinet in order to promote a comprehensive and efficient movement towards a globally "barrier-free" society that includes both infrastructural and human resources. Later, in June of 2004 members of the Government united and established through this conference the Barrier-Free Promotion Outline, a policy for moving society towards being "barrier-free" through both infrastructural and human resources. Then, in June of 2006 the Act for Promoting Barrier-free Transport and Facilities for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (the New Barrier-free Act) was established, going into effect in December of the same year. Due to this act, concerned persons participated in both the formulation of the basic plan and the planning of the overall promotion of the "barrier-free" changes, involving routes and facilities used in the daily lives of persons with disabilities, including not only public transportation, roads and buildings but also public gardens and parking lots. In March of 2008, based on the permeation of "universal design," a

design accessible to everyone in such a way that no new barriers arise in facilities and products, the "Ministers' Conference Regarding 'Barrier-Free'" amended the Barrier-free Promotion Outline and established the Barrier-free Universal Design Promotion Outline, which made it clear that they are promoting both "barrier-free" and "universal design." The "Ministers' Conference Regarding "Barrier-Free" was reorganized in March by a partial oral amendment of the Cabinet for the same purpose, becoming the "Ministers' Conference Regarding, "Barrier-free Universal Design".

### (7) In the field of Education and Nurture

In the field of Education and Nurture, the School Education Act and other acts were amended in June 2006 so as to respond to the individual educational needs of each child with disabilities in a flexible manner and to support and guide them in an appropriate way. The amendments, which came into force in April 2007, include the transition of the system of schools for the blind, for the deaf, and for children with intellectual disability, physical disability, and health impairment to schools for special needs education.

In December 2006, the Basic Act on Education was completely amended and went into effect. The revised act includes a new clause in the article of "Equal Opportunities of Education" that requests both central and local governments to provide necessary support to children with disabilities so that they are fully educated in a manner appropriate to their disabilities. Furthermore, in order to realize the concept of this amended act, the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education was decided by the Cabinet. This plan shows the educational vision to be pursued over the next decade.

## (8) In the field of employment, needs regarding work

In the field of employment, needs regarding work for persons with disabilities have increased concomitantly with these peoples' augmented participation in society; it thus became necessary to plan for independence at work, as work opportunities for persons with disabilities are increasing. Consequently, in December of 2008 the Act partially amending the Persons with Disabilities Employment Promotion Act were passed and went into effect sequentially starting in April of 2009. The content of these laws includes, among other things, a revision of the system of employment quotas corresponding to short-time work, further promoting the employment of persons with disabilities in small-and

medium-sized businesses.

## (9) International Efforts

The Biwako Plus Five program was adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as an action guideline for the Second-Half Five-Year Program related to the "Biwako Millennium Framework" (BMF), the action plan of the "Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons " (2003-2012).

In fiscal year 2011, the ESCAP organized the meetings taking into account the end of the "Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons" (2003-2012), where the representatives of the Member States discussed the activities beyond 2012 in the Asian and Pacific region. The High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting is planned to be held to discuss the action plan for the next decade in Incheon, South Korea in October and November 2012.

### (10) Headquarters and Reform Committee

As previously mentioned, in December of 2009, under the administration of Headquarters, "The Reform Committee" was established," centering on persons with disabilities. It opened in January of 2010. At which, on two occasions opinions were shared, which eventually lead to reforms on the Persons with Disabilities Act. The General Welfare Department also contributed to these talks. The end of 2009 to 2011 was a revolutionary period for the policy to come in relation to persons with disabilities.

# [2] The State of Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (Fundamental Statistics)

### **1** Persons with Disabilities Complete General Condition

## Chart 7 Persons with Disabilities Statistics (approximate estimations)

		Total	In-home	In facilities	
	Under 18 years	98, 000	93,000	5,000	
Persons • children with	18 years and older	3,564,000	3,483,000	81,000	
physical disabilities	Combined	3,663,000	3,576,000	87,000	
		(29 persons)	(28 persons)	(1 person)	
	Under 18 years	125,000	1,017,000	8,000	
Persons ∙ children with	18 years and older	410,000	290,000	120,000	
intellectual disabilities	Un-specified age	12,000	12,000	0	
	Combined	547,000 (4 persons)	419,000 (3 persons)	128,000 (1 person)	
		(4 persons)	(3 persons)	(i person)	

		Total	Outside patients	In-hospital patients
	Under 20	178,000	17,400	4,000
Persons with	20 years and older	3,054,000	2,725,000	329,000
mental disorders	Unspecified age	6,000	5,000	1,000
	Combined	3,233,000 (25 persons)	2,900,000 (23 persons)	333,000 (3 persons)

Annotation 1 : ( ) numbers in parenthesis are based off of a total population of 1,000 persons (According to 2005 census)

Annotation 2 : From the psychologically impaired statistics of ICD 1 0's (International Classification of Diseases edition number 1 0) psychologically impaired and actions persons, mental disorder numbers were taken out and added to epilepsy and Alzheimer's patient numbers.

 $\label{eq:anotation 3} and a constraint of the physically impaired children \cdot person's, "in-facilities" numbers, elderly home patients were not included.$ 

Annotation 4 : Due to rounding up, there may be cases in which the, "All together" column has different numbers than the actual total of the sum of the other columns.

#### Resource :

### "Persons • children with physical disabilities "

At-home : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Children(Persons) with physical disabilities survey" fiscal 2006 In-facility patients : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Social welfare facilities survey" fiscal 2006

### "Persons • children with intellectual disabilities"

At-home : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Children(persons) with intellectual disabilities fundamental survey" fiscal 2005

In-facility patients : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Social welfare facilities survey" fiscal 2005

### "Persons with mental disorders"

Outside patients : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Patient survey" fiscal 2008

Drafted by The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare • The War Victim's Relief Bureau administered Persons with Disabilities Health and Welfare Department

In-hospital patient numbers: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Patient survey" fiscal 2008

Drafted by The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare • The War Victim's Relief Bureau administered Persons with Disabilities Health and Welfare Department



Chart 8 Persons with Physical Disabilities (At-home)



Note: In 1980, research on 0-17 year-old children with disabilities was not implemented.

Resource : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Physically impaired children • persons survey"

## ■Chart 9 Persons • children with intellectual disabilities (At home)



## Chart10 Persons with mental disorders (Outside patients)



Resource: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Children(persons) with intellectual disabilities fundamental survey" fiscal 2005 Resource : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Patient survey" fiscal 2008 Drafted by The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare • The War Victim's Relief Bureau administered Persons with Disabilities Health and Welfare Department

## (3) Status of residence Chart 11 Persons with physical disabilities

Unit: %

Owning a	House owned	Private sector	Company	Public housing	Others	No
house	by the family	rental housing	housing, etc.	etc.	(Renting a	reply
					room etc.)	
51.7	30.6	6.4	0.4	7.6	1.8	1.5

Resource : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Physically impaired children • persons survey"

## Chart 12 Persons with intellectual disabilities

Unit: %

Own a house	Company	Group home	Independence facilities for	Others	Unknown
or an	dormitory		persons with intellectual		
apartment			disabilities		
82.0	0.3	8.9	0.1	7.5	1.1

Resource: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Children (persons) with intellectual disabilities fundamental survey"

fiscal 2005

## Chart13 Persons with mental disorders

Unit: %

Live with family	Living alone	Home welfare etc.	Group home	Welfare facilities for the aged	Others
76.8	17.9	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.8

Resource: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "Mental disorders rehabilitation service needs Survey" (2003)

## (4) Education

# ■Chart 14 Enrollment number for toddlers and schoolchildren( Schools for Special Needs Education )

Approximately 126,000 people

(Unit: People) (May 1,2011)

Classification	Enrollment number				
	Pre-Primary	Pre-Primary Elementary Dept Lower Sec. Dept Upper			
	Dept			Dept	
Visual impairment	246	1,794	1,042	2,800	
Hearing impairment	1,189	3,177	1,937	2,357	

Intellectual disabilities	222	32,475	24,857	53,914
Physical disabilities	177	13,639	8,076	9,720
Health impairment	30	7,508	5,379	6,672
Total	1,543	36,659	28,225	59,696

Note: Children with multiple failures are included in each classification; therefore, the sum of all categories does not

match the total.

Resource: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, and Science "School Basic Survey (2011)"

## ■Chart 15 The number of students that are enrolled in special needs education in resource rooms at Elementary schools and Junior high schools

Approximately 155,000 people (Unit: people) (May 1,2011)

Classification	Elementary school	Junior high school
Intellectual disabilities	55,352	28,419
Physical disabilities	3,221	1,079
Health impairment	1,608	662
Low vision	292	93
Hard of hearing	913	369
Speech and language impairment	1,373	118
Emotional disturbance and autism	44,838	16,918
Total	107,597	47,658

Resource: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, and Science "School Basic Survey (FY2011)"

# ■Chart 16 The number of students who receive special needs educa at Elementary schools and Junior high schools

Approximately 65,000 people (Unit: people) (May 1,2011)

Classification	Elementary school	Junior high school
Speech impediment	31,314	293
Autism	9,007	1,335
Emotional disturbance	5,218	1,114
Amblyopia	111	19
Hearing loss	1,710	341
Learning disability	6,455	1,358
Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder	6,312	714
Motional disability	6	3
Speech impediment	31	19
Total	60,164	5,196

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, "Survey regarding the implementation status of special guidance during class" (FY 2011)

## (5) Employment



## Chart 17 Employment rate by age

Resource : Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, "Persons with Physical disabilities, Persons with Intellectual disabilities and Persons with Mental Disorders Employment survey" (July 1,2006)

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications," Annual Report of the Labour Force Survey" (2006)

# ■Chart 18 Employment status of employees (persons with physical disabilities)



### Resource:

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Survey regarding the employment of persons with physical disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with mental disabilities" (As of July 1, 2006)

## Chart 19 Employment status of employees (persons with intellectual disabilities)



Resource:

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Survey regarding the employment of persons with physical disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with

mental disabilities"

(As of July 1, 2006)



■Chart 20 Employment status of employees (persons with mental disabilities)

#### Resource:

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Survey regarding the employment of persons with physical disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with mental disabilities" (As of July 1, 2006)

## (6) Income

# ■Chart21 Monthly employment income situation for persons with disabilities (Home)



Resource:

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Survey regarding Children • Persons with Disabilities," (2006)

# Chart22 Employment salary of persons with intellectual disabilities (Home)



	Total	Schizophrenia	Other than schizophrenia
Salary	21.8	13.8	26.3
Workplace wage, etc	3.7	5.3	2.3
Self/family employment	4.7	4.8	4.3
Aid from parents or siblings	12.2	15.4	9.0
Income from rent, etc	1.8	1.6	1.9
Disability pension	25.7	41.2	12.6
Pension other than disability pension	11.2	5.9	14.5
Public benefits	2.1	2.0	2.1
Welfare	13.0	15.0	10.8
Other	7.3	4.9	8.8
Unknown	2.5	3.2	1.8
None	18.1	17.8	17.2

■Chart 23 The contents of average income of persons with mental disabilities (Outpatients)

## [3] The Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities and the Five-year Plan for the Implementation of Priority Measures

## 1. The Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities

Article 11 of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities mandates the establishment of a basic program regarding policies for persons with disabilities.

The presently active Basic Program was established by Cabinet decision in December of 2002 with the duration of ten years from 2003 to 2012. While building on the concepts of former long-term plans such as "normalization" or "rehabilitation" and the concept of a "Cohesive Society"—one in which everyone respects and supports the personality and individuality of others—this plan establishes the basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities during the plan period. It aims for the realization of a society where persons with disabilities can take part and participate in all sorts of activities based on their own choices and free will, and where the rights of persons with disabilities are respected as those of equally constitutive members of society.