

Chart24 The Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities and The Five-year Plan for the Implementation of Priority Measures

Basic Law for Persons with Disabilities (1970, law #84)

Article 9: the government needs to establish basic plans regarding policies for persons with disabilities, so as to promote measures concerning the prevention of disabilities in a comprehensive and organized manner, as well as measures concerning the welfare of persons with disabilities.



Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities (Cabinet decision, December 24th, 2002)

【10-year period from 2003 to 2012】

The Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities, while replacing concepts of the former long-term plans such as "normalization" or "rehabilitation", determines basic direction to be taken by measures for the Disabled during the 10-year period from **fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2012 in order to promote even further measures for the participation and the involvement of the Disabled in society.**

IV Developmental Structure, etc.

1 Plan for the Enforcement of Key Measures

Regarding priority matters, a plan of the enforcement of the key measures, i.e. **measures establishing concrete objectives and deadlines, is established and enforced in order to steadily promote the different measures based on the Basic Plan.**



Five-year Plan for the Enforcement of Key Measures (the Second-Half Five-Year Plan)

(decision of the Task Force on Disability Reforms, December 25th, 2007)

【5-year period from 2008 to 2012】

Concerning the most important questions to be tackled in the five years starting in **fiscal year 2008, the plan establishes 57 numerical targets alongside 120 measure clauses;** in order to steadily promote the different measures of the second period of the Basic Plan, it also establishes their deadlines.

Please see the Former Five-year Plan for the Enforcement of Key Measures.

(decision of the Head Office of the Task Force on Disability Reforms, December 24th, 2002)

【5-year period from 2003 to 2007】

Source: Cabinet Office

2 The Five-year Plan for the Implementation of Priority Measures

Now, in chapter IV of the Basic Program ("Developmental Structure, etc.") it is stated that "so as to steadily promote the different measures based on the Basic Program, there needs to be a plan to enforce key measures, i.e. measures establishing concrete objectives and deadlines." Based upon this, the Five-year Plan for the Implementation of Priority Measures was established.

In December of 2007, following the deliberations of the "Central Council for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities" and the consideration of the opinions of a total of 120 organizations and individuals—including persons with disabilities, their families, related organizations and scholars—the Second-Half Five-Year Program corresponding to the second half of the Basic Program (fiscal years 2008-2012) was established.

The Second-Half Five-Year Program adheres to the concepts of independence and symbiosis and, in order to truly contribute to the realization of a "Cohesive Society," does the following:

- 1) Gives comprehensive, user-focused and gap-free support at every step of the life cycle of persons with disabilities, support adapted to the specificities of different disabilities, be they physical, intellectual, psychiatric or developmental, with the basic goal of granting them an independent life where they live;
- 2) Promotes the establishment of a life environment that takes into consideration "universal design," easily accessible to all, so as to remove obstacles to participation in society and independence in the areas where persons with disabilities live, and to promote the practical use of IT (information technologies) to supply comprehensive information to persons with disabilities;
- 3) Investigates the fundamental revision of the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act and the necessary revisions of the plan based on its results, and
- 4) Promotes the development of disability measures, emphasizing the four points that promote the establishment of necessary civil laws in accordance with the Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible; concerning the most important questions to be tackled in the five years starting in fiscal 2008, the plan establishes 57 numerical targets, including 42 new regulation clauses alongside 120 measure clauses. It also establishes deadlines for their completion.

A progress report of the Second-Half Five-Year Program is announced roughly

every fiscal year by the "Central Council for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities".

【4】 Regional Programs for Persons with Disabilities

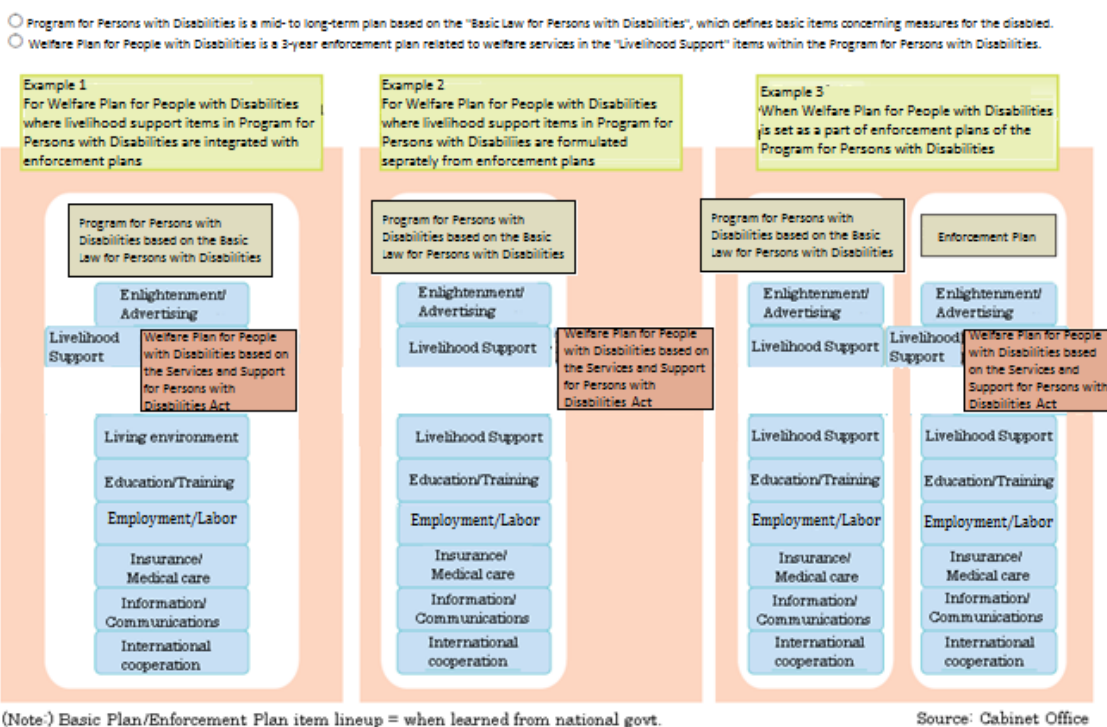
With the amendment of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities of June 2004, the establishment of programs for persons with disabilities that had until then been left up to the will of metropolitan and prefectural administrations as well as municipal administrations became mandatory. For the former, this marks the day of the promulgation of the amended Act; for the latter it would be April 2007.

(1) Putting in Place Regional Programs for Persons with Disabilities

The persons with disabilities programs consist of the following: "The Long Term Policy Initiative Based on the Act for Persons with Disabilities." "The Persons with Disabilities Welfare Program"-a plan developed over a period of three years for all parties in every field who concern persons with disabilities- and "The Program to Guarantee Welfare Services for Persons with disabilities Based on the Persons with Disabilities Independence Act." Furthermore, the programs contain mostly life-style support welfare service based programs.

Furthermore, in accordance with the, "Persons with Disabilities Independence Support Act," policy for the enforcement of persons with disabilities welfare services are being enforced across the nation in all levels of government. At the time of the implantation of any persons with disabilities policies, the best efforts are made to ensure that they are in accordance also with the, "Persons with Disabilities Act," as a rule. Look to diagram 25 to see how this is carried out.

■Chart 25 Relations of Program for Persons with Disabilities and Welfare Plan for Persons with disabilities



(2) Concerning the circumstances of the establishment of different Regional Programs for Persons with Disabilities

At the end of fiscal 2010 programs had been established by all metropolitan and prefectural administrations, as well as by all designated municipalities. Concerning the structures establishing these Programs, in the case of metropolitan and prefectural administrations as well as designated municipalities about 80-90% were carried out by cross-sectional investigative structures composed of related departments.

In about 70% of the cases, similar measures were taken for developmental structures as well. At the time the Programs were established, 80-90% of metropolitan and prefectural administrations carried out hearings for concerned parties and encouraged participation on the part of the citizenry; nearly all designated municipalities did the same. Finally, all administrations took part in the "Regional Councils for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities." As far as the content of the Programs is concerned, of the eight fields included in the State's Basic Program for the Persons with Disabilities, "Enlightenment and

Information of the Public," "Livelihood Support," "Life Environment," "Education and Training," "Employment and Labor," "Health and Medical Care" and "Information and Communication" have been included in Programs by all administrations. "International Cooperation" was included in roughly 30% of them.

In municipal administrations in March of 2011 (not including designated cities but including special districts, conditions that apply to all statistics in this paragraph), 1,662 out of 1,731 bodies (96.00%) were establishing Programs; in comparison to the previous fiscal year where, out of 1,732 bodies, 1,670 established Programs (96.4%).

At the time of establishing Programs in municipal administrations, structures promoting or establishing measures of the Programs existed about 60% of the time. At the time of development, about 30% of them used hybridized management by related departments Compared with metropolitan and prefectural administrations and designated municipalities this percentage is low, especially the percentage of developing structures. Finally, around 70% 13 of the municipal administrations carried out hearings for concerned parties and encouraged participation of the citizenry at the time of establishing Programs, but concerning "Regional Councils for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities,"—not made compulsory for municipal administrations—50% of them took part.

Regarding the content of the Programs, out of the eight fields included in the State's Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities, "Enlightenment and Publicity," "Livelihood Support," "Life Environment," "Education and Training," "Employment and Labor" and "Health and Medical Care" were included in more than 90% of them; "Information and Communication" was included in nearly 90% of them, while "International Cooperation" was included in no more than about 10% of the Programs.

Column

"Earthquake and Persons with disabilities"

(1) From the examination by the Council for the Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with disabilities

"The Council for the Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with disabilities" held under the "Headquarters for Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with disabilities" set up by the Cabinet vigorously examined the promotion of future measures for persons with disabilities from January 2010, focusing on persons with disabilities concerned. However, the Headquarters featured the theme of "Earthquake and Persons with disabilities" on May 23, 2011 and January 23, 24, 2012 in regards to the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011. In addition, it held hearings directly from each central person in charge of administrations (city), organizations for persons with disabilities, and the groups that have been supporting persons with disabilities in time of disaster, which have already been supporting persons with disabilities and have a firm grasp on the situation. In addition, the members of the Promotion Council inspected the damaged areas and performed an on-the-spot (field) survey.

1. The 32nd Council for the Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with disabilities (May 23, 2011)

The members, for two months after the Earthquake, discussed methods for the support and proper measures for persons with disabilities for the future, based upon the temporary data and information about the situation of damage collected by each member.

(cf. Homepage: Cabinet Office Measures for Persons with Disabilities)

(Source) http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/suishin/kaikaku/s_kaigi/k_32/index.html

(Record of Proceedings)

http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/suishin/kaikaku/s_kaigi/k_32/giji-youroku.html)

2. The 37th Council for the Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with disabilities (January 23, 2012)

At the Council, which took place ten months after the Earthquake, when the situation of the damages and life in the evacuation shelters became quite clear, we invited central people in charge of organizations of and for persons with disabilities, NPOs that have been supporting persons with disabilities and the

administration (city), and implemented hearings. In addition, the members of the Promotion Council were divided into Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima prefectures, investigated on-site, and conducted question-and-answer sessions.

The focal points are mainly these four: 1) Efforts for “people requiring support in the event of disaster”, 2) Safety confirmation and understanding support needs, 3) How to shape the mechanism of support for persons with disabilities soon after a disaster, 4) How to shape support for reconstruction for persons with disabilities.

The council has thus published distributed documents, composed by people who cooperated in the hearings, generally unaltered, for the reference of the reader.

Report from the viewpoint of administration (cities, towns and villages)

(Report by Takeyoshi Nishiura, Minamisoma City Health Welfare Director)

1. Regarding efforts for "people requiring support in the event of disaster"

- **Regarding the effectiveness of current efforts**

In Minamisoma-shi, they devised the "Register of People Requiring Support in the Event of Disaster" to include elderly people and persons with disabilities (those who require care above the third level, level 1-2 Physical Disability Certificate holders, Level A Intellectual Disabilities Certificate holders), and who have agreed to release personal information (66.94%). There are 4,280 people registered.

This plan was distributed to local welfare officers, ward heads, firefighting teams and others, but it did not function, because the citizens of all these areas were evacuated due to the Earthquake.

- **Cooperation and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the training and planning for evacuation**

The Minamisoma City Disaster Prevention Plan has been devised and drills for disaster prevention in Minamisoma City have been conducted annually in accordance with the Plan. However, the participation of persons with disabilities of organizations of persons with disabilities has not been called upon in the training and planning for evacuation and, at present, there has been no cooperation with organizations for persons with disabilities.

- **Regarding the creation of the Register of People Requiring Support (setting the range of subjects and privacy protection)**

Regarding the range of subjects, taking into consideration use for other purposes, we decided to include elderly people and persons with disabilities. In

terms of privacy protection, we could only include people who have given consent in the Register under existing legislation, because in ordinary times personal information is strongly protected by the Personal Information Protection Act.

However, after experiencing this disaster, we strongly believe it necessary to have a register of people requiring support, which include all people who would require support, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities.

- **Regarding the role of the Individual Support Plan**

In the event of a disaster, safety confirmation is necessary, but there are also people who require individual support at the time of confirmation. Therefore, it is necessary to create a plan for individual support beforehand.

We intend to share the information regarding people who require support, which was obtained from an investigation by this JDF (Japanese Disabilities Forum), with consultation support companies entrusted by Minamisoma City.

2. Regarding confirmation of safety and understanding support needs

- **Regarding the subject responsible for confirmation of safety and understanding support needs and the system for this purpose**

We believe that understanding support needs and safety confirmation in the event of a disaster is the responsibility of the administration as part of protecting the safety and lives of citizens. However, it is necessary to construct a system, acting immediately in cooperation with organizations and offices of and for persons with disabilities in order to implement such actions.

- **Regarding confirmation by people providing welfare services and their cooperation with the administration**

- **Regarding information disclosure**

Due to the requests from the NPO, Support Center PIA and the JDF (Japan Disability Forum) Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities, we considered the disclosure of personal information from the viewpoint of, “Are we able to disclose personal information in time of emergency?” As a result, by applying an exception in the Minamisoma City Privacy Protection Ordinance, we came to the conclusion that in order to protect the lives, bodies and properties of persons with disabilities, disclosure of such information is justified.

- **Regarding safety confirmation of the welfare service users, such as inpatients, outpatients and home-help recipients**

Confirmation and evacuation was carried out at the respective offices for welfare

service users, including inpatient and outpatient service users. However, at first it was not possible to confirm the safety of individual service users and homebound persons with disabilities, such as home-help users.

- **Regarding safety confirmation of persons with disabilities who do not use the services mentioned above**

Among persons with disabilities who do not use such services, we disclosed information about physically and intellectually persons with disabilities and through the cooperation of the NPO Support Peers and JDF Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas, we were able to confirm the safety of 590 people.

Regarding people with mental disorders, health nurses of the city and the prefecture investigated the safety of 235 people (27.7%) who had received outpatient psychiatric care, from the point of view whether psychiatric treatment continued.

3. How to shape the mechanism of support for persons with disabilities soon after disasters

- **Regarding evacuation shelters**

- **Problems with regular evacuation shelters**

In most cases, temporary evacuation shelters are school gymnasiums and similar places that are not equipped with toilets for persons with disabilities and have steps: they are not barrier-free. The fact that many evacuation facilities were like this and could not support persons with disabilities was a major issue.

- **Problems with welfare evacuation shelters**

Providing welfare evacuation shelters in the future has become an issue, because Minamisoma City did not establish welfare evacuation shelters that can support persons with disabilities and elderly people.

In addition, as the Fukushima prefecture did not have enough establishments, this forced people to take shelter in gymnasiums and as these places cannot support evacuees, they have had to move to their own houses or those of relatives. In light of the disaster, mainly the country and prefectures need to specify welfare evacuation shelters under a regional system.

- **Regarding support for persons with disabilities in the event of emergency evacuation**

- **Provision of information and relief supplies to evacuation shelters**

In addition to installing television and Internet connections in the evacuation

shelters, we also provided information through various paper information publications. Moreover, we provided relief supplies consisting of daily necessities such as bedding and provided meals.

- **Provision of information and relief supplies to homebound evacuees**

In addition to setting up the Minamisoma City FM station and providing disaster-related information to the homebound refugees, we also provided information through various paper information publications. Moreover, although it was at irregular intervals, we provided homebound refugees with relief supplies consisting of daily necessities such as rice.

In general, we offered supplies regularly in public facilities, but we also provided individual support for persons with disabilities and citizens without cars.

- **Consultation support system in the event of emergency evacuation**

In this city, we arranged community health nurses at the city's information counter and received consultations from evacuees. In addition, where there were requests, we created teams of health nurses from public health centers and caregivers from the Social Welfare Council and carried out patrol visits to perform consultations and provide support.

Furthermore, we have a consultation system in place from prior to the disaster, including in times of emergency evacuation, where we have consigned consultation duties at two designated consultation support offices.

- **Other**

The spread of information at an early stage for people staying at home was made by disaster prevention radio broadcasting and vans with loudspeakers. However, since this method couldn't completely reach all people and some people would shut their windows to prevent damage from radiation, and there were many citizens who were unable to access information.

4. How to shape support for reconstruction for persons with disabilities

- **Securing houses**

- **Regarding temporary housing (construction of barrier-free houses and house repair)**

There were no barrier-free houses in the temporary housing deployed in Minamisoma City in response to the Earthquake. Therefore, after receiving complaints, the city responded in a few days by taking out steps at the entrances and replacing them with slopes. We think that it is necessary to prepare many

barrier-free houses as part of the temporary housing.

- **Deemed temporary housing**

We allow household improvements for rental houses in order to provide daily-use equipment, if the consent of the landlord have been given. Many people use deemed temporary rental houses.

In Minamisoma City, the number of rental houses from the private sector is 4,308 and the number of temporary houses is 3,060.

- **Individual living support**

- **The effectiveness and limits of continuous support by private support groups**

Thanks to the support by the JDF Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities, we were able to achieve great results. However, since the staff belongs to other groups, there are limits in terms of long-term support. The management and utilization of collected data will become a challenge. In addition, as we did not know of the existence of JDF: Such information must be thoroughly shared during ordinary times.

- **Continuation of administrative welfare services and response to new needs**

Ongoing support services such as disability welfare services are important, especially in the event of disaster, as it is a life-threatening event.

We believe that we have been able to offer ongoing support after this Earthquake, with the exception of the period of time immediately following the Earthquake.

We were also able to respond to new needs such as exemptions of financial burdens for users institutionalized as an exception in the event of earthquake.

- **Support for welfare offices**

As the decontamination of facilities for welfare offices has become necessary due to the nuclear plant accident, we need to conduct decontamination in accordance with the city decontamination plan. In addition, although we respond to requests by welfare offices, we are facing issues such as a lack of nursing staff and a shortage of funds due to the suspension of providing support.

- **Employment support**

In this city, we have Hello Work run by the country and the Soso Employment Support Center run by the prefecture, and we are providing employment support through these institutions.

In addition, the staff at Hello Work, the Soso Employment Support Center and

facilities for persons with disabilities, has gathered at the Employment Support Group set up under our city's Council to Support Community Self-Reliance to consider employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

- **Enrichment of the consultation support system**

There are two designated consultation support offices in our city. Since the number of consultations has increased due to the recent earthquake, we intend to build one more such facility, totaling three, to respond to these issues.

- **Challenges for reconstruction**

- **What does reconstruction consist of for persons with disabilities?**

For persons with disabilities, reconstruction involves returning the situation to the same condition as it was prior to the Earthquake in terms of both physical and mental aspects, as well as improving this situation. Minamisoma City has devised a plan for reconstruction, but a regional support system is necessary for persons with disabilities living in the region. In addition, the immediate reopening of inpatient facilities, outpatient facilities and medical institutions is also linked to reconstruction.

- **Regarding the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in devising a plan for reconstruction and its implementation**

The participation of organizations of and persons with disabilities in devising a plan for reconstruction is necessary. However, the current plan has unfortunately been devised through the participation of representatives from various organizations, without the participation of persons with disabilities themselves or members of organizations of person with disabilities. In future plan development, the participation by organizations of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities themselves is essential.



Temporary housing for victims of the Earthquake (Minamisoma City)
(This photograph was not used in the report.)

“Earthquake and Persons with disabilities”

2. Example: Case studies by organizations of persons with disabilities (from examination by the Promotion Council)

The discussion introduced on page 29 that featured the theme of "Disaster and Persons with disabilities" from the "Council for the Promotion of Reform of the System for Persons with disabilities" that we was an action by the city (Minamisoma City).

We conducted hearings directly from the central members of victim support groups from organizations of persons with disabilities.

Here, we will publish materials from the hearings, which were submitted by central members of organizations of persons with disabilities that aided persons with disabilities in the Fukushima Prefecture.

You can read documents by other participants at the hearing on the Cabinet Office Measures for Person with Disabilities homepage. (Please refer to the end of this boxed article)

Local support initiatives report by an organization of persons with disabilities

(JDF (Japan Disability Forum);

Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas, Kiyoharu Shiraishi)

1. Actions for " people requiring support in the event of disaster"

- **Effectiveness of current actions**

Immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we established the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas and strongly requested the disclosure of the Register of People Requiring Support in the Event of Disaster from the Fukushima Prefecture and the municipalities affected by the disaster. However, this information could not be provided because of the barrier of protection of personal information.

In the Fukushima Prefecture, Minamisoma City experience particularly heavy damage due to the disaster and is designated as an emergency evacuation preparation zone. Under the strong sense of duty that we must confirm the identities of persons with disabilities who are troubled as they were not able to evacuate and remained within the city, we demand that the city disclose the

Register of Persons with disabilities in Minamisoma City.

The City of Minamisoma has also judged it necessary that they devise emergency evacuation measures for the persons with disabilities who remain in the city, and we are on the same page in deciding to disclose the Register.

In all of the Fukushima Prefecture, only Minamisoma City complied with the disclosure of the Register during the Earthquake.

We believe the fact that in the administration of each prefecture, everyone was busy taking disaster recovery measure in response to the Earthquake, which made it impossible to take care of persons with disabilities. However, there should have been slightly more effective actions in disclosing the Register of People Requiring Support.

- **Cooperation and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the training and planning for evacuation**

As far as we have observed, in Fukushima Prefecture there are no plans for evacuation or conducted emergency drills including the participation and cooperation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

When a disaster occurs, persons with disabilities tend to be put on the backburner. We need to devise evacuation plans, which focus on persons with disabilities who fail to escape.

The country and local governments should include organizations of persons with disabilities in the Evacuation Planning Committee to devise detailed evacuation plans.

- **Regarding the creation of the Register of People Requiring Support (setting the range of subjects and privacy protection)**

After experiencing the Earthquake, we have strongly recognized the need to create a Register of People Requiring Support.

There is no doubt that people requiring physical assistance should be considered as people requiring support, but we also think it necessary to include those people with intellectual disabilities and mental disabilities who don't require physical assistance and those belonging to a gray zone who don't have disabilities certificates.

The unprecedented Earthquake is a national crisis and because helping citizens should be our first priority, we do not think it is the occasion to be discussing individual privacy protection.

2. Safety confirmation and understanding support needs

(1) As far as Fukushima Prefecture is concerned, the safety confirmation of the persons with disabilities might not have been as readily carried out by administrative leadership, as expected.

(2) Cooperation between the administration, local welfare officers, and the neighborhood associations of each area might not have been successful.

(3) Fukushima has the particularity of having had the nuclear plant accident and the administration itself of each municipality also became subject to evacuation. Therefore, they might not have been able to conduct the safety confirmation of persons with disabilities.

(4) In the affected areas, they might not have understood the individual needs of persons with disabilities.

- **Regarding the subject responsible for confirmation of safety understanding support needs and the system for this purpose**

We believe that it is the responsibility of local governments to conduct safety confirmation and understand support needs.

However, there are limitations in terms of the staff systems of local governments in the event of an earthquake.

It is necessary that private organizations, local welfare officers, and neighborhood associations cooperate with local governments to understand support needs and confirm the safety of persons with disabilities.

- **Confirmation by people providing welfare services and cooperation with the administration**

- **Information disclosure**

Not only in the event of an earthquake, but also even before such a disaster occurs we should aim for cooperation and exchange between the administration and people providing welfare services.

We should seek to build a relationship between the administration and people providing welfare services (organizations of persons with disabilities) and realize information disclosure within a trusting relationship.

- **Regarding safety confirmation of the welfare service users, such as inpatients, outpatients and home-help recipients**

To confirm the safety of users of welfare services, the establishments providing such services should take responsibility and confirm the safety of persons with disabilities.

However, we must create the system to conduct safety confirmation by the related establishments in place of such establishments that must be evacuated due to disasters. In such cases, there must be cooperation between the administration and the establishments.

- **Regarding safety confirmation of persons with disabilities who do not use the services mentioned above**

We must make it possible to conduct the safety confirmation of persons with disabilities immediately through the cooperation among the administration, private organizations, local welfare officers, and/or neighborhood associations.

To that end, it is necessary for us to conduct further studies into the roles of local welfare officers.

3. How to shape the mechanism of support for persons with disabilities soon after disasters

- **Regarding evacuation shelters**

- **Problems with regular evacuation shelters**

Regular evacuation shelters are largely places like school gymnasiums, where the ground is uneven at the entrance.

Due to mats being laid out on the floor, this created a problem where people in wheelchairs could not lie down to sleep.

In addition, there were not any bathrooms or baths at the evacuation shelters that could support people in wheelchairs.

There were cases in which persons with developmental disorders, who are unable to live communally, parked outside in the parking lots near evacuation shelters and took shelter in their cars with their families.

- **Problems with welfare evacuation shelters**

Although we received information that there were several welfare evacuation shelters in Fukushima Prefecture, we had no idea as to where they were and what kind of persons with disabilities had taken shelter there.

In Koriyama City, some persons with severe physical disabilities had their belongings scattered all about their homes or had their homes half-destroyed, leaving their homes in an unusable state.

Therefore, we asked Koriyama City to have the welfare center for persons with disabilities, which was being used as a regular evacuation center at the time, used as an evacuation center for persons with disabilities and as a result, it was

used as a welfare evacuation center.

Is welfare evacuation center the proper naming for such a place?

- **Regarding support for persons with disabilities in the event of emergency evacuation**

- **Provision of information and relief supplies to evacuation shelters**

Staff from the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with Disabilities in Affected Areas visited evacuation shelters in various areas with the Fukushima Prefecture and asked about the safety and support needs of persons with disabilities.

However, we could not find persons with disabilities in most evacuation shelters. Perhaps because persons with disabilities thought it to be near impossible for them to take refuge in regular evacuation shelters, very few persons with disabilities evacuated to evacuation shelters.

Staff from the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas visited evacuation shelters and put up posters saying that they can support victims of the Earthquake with disabilities. Because of this, the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas started to receive inquiring calls. We were not able to provide individual supplies to the evacuation shelters.

Because people live communally in evacuation shelters, relief supplies needed to be handed out to all evacuees.

Since there were persons with disabilities who were spending the entire day in wheelchairs, we asked the administration to allow us to arrange some beds in the evacuation shelters for them.

The staff from Fukushima Support Center for Persons with Disabilities in Affected Areas also took some of the persons with disabilities to public baths, because they had not been able to bathe for weeks.

- **Provision of information and relief supplies to homebound evacuees**

We asked establishments performing work related to persons with disabilities in Soma City, Minamisoma City and Iwaki City that had resumed operations to become bases for relief supplies and we brought the relief supplies to those locations.

We took measures in delivering relief supplies from these establishments to users of the establishment and persons with disabilities living in the area.

When Iitate became a planned evacuation zone, we received information from

litate's administration, saying that persons with severe physical disabilities wanted to take shelter within the region, rather than go to special facilities for persons with disabilities.

Staff from the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas repeatedly visited the homes of persons with disabilities in litate wanting to take shelter within the region and was able to convince them to enter apartments run by the Fukushima City.

Persons with disabilities were also evacuated fearing the effects of radiation damage to outside of the prefecture.

Two persons with disabilities were evacuated to Nishinomiya City in Hyogo Prefecture through the cooperation of persons with disabilities that are an acquaintance of ours who had experienced the Great Hanshin, Awaji Earthquake.

- **Consultation support system in the event of emergency evacuation**

(1) The state of affairs was that offices providing consultations for persons with disabilities in the Soso area of Fukushima Prefecture had to evacuate the entire office to outside the prefecture or to other areas within the prefecture. Therefore, it became difficult to carry out consultation operations in the area.

The Fukushima Support Center for Persons with Disabilities in Affected Areas asked Fukushima Prefecture to ensure that there is a consultation support system for the earthquake victims with disabilities. As a result, the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas, as a consigned organization supporting persons with disabilities, was able to deploy consultation support staff and was able to build a consultation system for the persons with disabilities who were evacuated.

(2) In Minamisoma City, a life care office that resumed operations before any others played a key role in completely undertaking all consultations for persons with disabilities in Minamisoma City single-handedly. However, the office was not originally made for consultation services, but still needed to offer life care services despite most of the staff being evacuated. Thus, the office faced a lot of difficulties.

4. How to shape support for reconstruction for persons with disabilities

- **Securing houses**
- **Regarding temporary housing (construction of barrier-free houses and house modification)**

The Fukushima Support Center for Persons with Disabilities in Affected Areas visited temporary houses set up in Fukushima Prefecture to investigate where earthquake victims with disabilities were living.

As far as could be seen, there were no temporary houses that could support the lifestyles of people with wheelchairs. There were some temporary houses with slopes here and there.

However, when we knocked on the door to see who was living there, we found that these houses were mostly mismatched, with ordinary people without disabilities living there.

The issue is that temporary houses have been built in remote areas and it is difficult for persons with disabilities to move to them.

Temporary houses are generally built on unused land, but it is just not right to rebuilding in places where the radiation dose is high, such as Fukushima City, Date City, and Koriyama City.

Based on the aforementioned issues, if we consider the fact that people will move from temporary houses to live in houses built as part of reconstruction support, we must include persons with disabilities in the reconstruction process and build universally designed houses where victims of the earthquake can live at ease.

In addition, we think it necessary to make universal design the standard for temporary housing as a future course of action.

- **Deemed temporary housing**

In Fukushima Prefecture, we call deemed temporary houses “rental houses”. However, we cannot determine where the rental houses are or where persons with disabilities are living.

As rental houses mostly makes use of leased housing from the private sector, the way they are built makes it difficult for people with severe physical disabilities to live there.

There is no information as to how far renovation of these houses has progressed.

It is necessary that the country takes the lead and offer full financial support for the renovation of these houses with the consent of the owners of the private leased housing.

- **Individual living support**

- **The effectiveness and limits of continuous support by private**

support groups

The Fukushima Support Center for Persons with Disabilities in Affected Areas is working as JDF. Support for persons with disabilities should be carried out by persons with disabilities themselves.

The agonies and difficulties of carrying a disability are best understood by people who have disabilities themselves.

Private support organizations cannot offer as much human support as they would like due to a weak financial base.

In that sense, we can see that there are limits for them in terms of offering continuous support.

It is imperative that the country and local governments offer financial support to those private support organizations run by persons with disabilities.

- **Continuation of administrative welfare services and response to new needs**

The administration is physically weak after experiencing the Earthquake. It currently cannot continue administrative welfare services. The country must take the initiative in performing such administrative support. The country needs to actively offer support that corresponds to new needs and is adjusted depending on the circumstances.

- **Support to welfare offices**

The Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas has dispatched volunteers mainly to Minamisoma City offices to assist the staff in those offices because they are experiencing a shortage of staff due to evacuation.

However, such a situation cannot last for long.

We think it necessary that we offer some support to offices where the number of staff decreased due to the disaster.

- **Employment support**

(1) Subcontract work from many companies is decreasing in establishments for persons with disabilities within the Fukushima Prefecture due to the Earthquake. The rewards (wages) for persons with disabilities using these establishments have noticeably decreased as a result. We developed a project named the "Fukushima ∞ (Infinity) Connection" in Minamisoma and other cities, in order to work out the wages of users and some of these establishments have started selling metal badges made by users nationwide.

(2) There must a long-term employment support system in order to strive for the

general employment of persons with disabilities. We need to drastically increase the number of job coaches and offer long-term employment support in the workplace.

- **Enrichment of the consultation support system**

(1) From June of last year, the Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas placed consultation support staff (consigned by the prefecture) within the center and carried out consultations with victims of the earthquake with disabilities through cooperation with consultation support offices within the prefecture. This service is expected to continue into the next fiscal year as an expanded consultation system with an increase of consultation support and strengthened operations consigned by the prefecture. In order to consult with persons with disabilities in affected areas with great care, we must consider offering financial support to increase the number of consultation offices or the number of staff working in consultation offices.

In one case, consultation support was consigned by an office that owned a large inpatient institution in the Soso area, but all the residents of the inpatient facility itself had to be evacuated to outside of the prefecture due to the Earthquake, leading to insufficient consultation support for persons with disabilities in these areas.

We should perhaps ask large social welfare organizations with sufficient funds and human resources to conduct consultation support, as a policy for the country and local governments. However, there are many small establishments operating in the area such as NPOs, which are truly concerned about the wellbeing of persons with disabilities and offer consultation services to them. We must seriously consider having consultation services carried out at such establishments.

- **Challenges for reconstruction**

- **Definition of reconstruction for persons with disabilities**

(1) For persons with disabilities, reconstruction means the establishment of a social infrastructure for daily living. This social infrastructure must consist of securing housing where one can live at ease, enriching the living assistance system, securing jobs (employment support), and enriching income security for persons with disabilities who are not able to work.

In devising reconstruction plans for municipalities, all newly built houses (reconstructed housing) must be built with universal design. We must not only enrich housing construction in areas affected by the Earthquake, but also

nationwide by setting certain legal constraints.

We must enrich our support for persons with disabilities to allow them to enjoy a satisfactory level of support no matter where they live.

In the Tohoku area that experienced damage due to the Earthquake. As such, we feel that the financial infrastructure of the prefecture is weak and awareness about the welfare of persons with disabilities is low. Therefore, we see some administration responses that suggest that the care of persons with disabilities should be left up to their families.

There are also many cases where families who cannot take care of persons with disabilities end up admitting them to inpatient institution. We must see to it that wherever persons with disabilities live in this country, they will receive at-home welfare services appropriate for them.

In Japan, it seems that houses are not built keeping persons with disabilities in mind and thus when victims of the earthquake with disabilities try to live in rental houses, they have to live under poor housing conditions. There are some provision services for daily living supplies. However, their benefits and people eligible vary depending on each local government. It is the responsibility of the country to cover the expenses incurred in remodeling houses, such as installing electric lifters, baths and toilets, and lifts at the entrances of houses.

Regarding employment support, after this Earthquake, what we have strongly felt is that work brings energy, smiles, and pride to people. Even with the economic support, without jobs that people can devote themselves to, hardships will continue. The entire prefecture has received damage from both contamination and rumors as a result of the nuclear plant accident, and people have lost their jobs. In such a situation, without the creation of new jobs, vitality will not return to the persons with disabilities remaining in the prefecture.

In the early 1980s, at the National Coordinating Committee for the Establishment of Income Security determinedly worked toward establishing a basic disability pension. After that, there have been no further developments regarding income security for persons with disabilities.

When a person with a severe physical disability is living independently in the city, the amount that he or she receives from the basic disability pension type 1 and in special disability benefits is approximately 100,000 yen in total. However, it is thought that living on such an amount is extremely difficult.

More income security must be provided for persons with disabilities who cannot work, including those who are victims of the Earthquake.

The land area of each of the prefectures in the Tohoku area is large and the population is small and traveling by train or bus is extremely difficult for persons with disabilities. In some sparsely populated areas, buses run only twice a day. When using taxis, the high cost is a problem.

In Koriyama City, where I live, because the bus carrier company is under the Company Rehabilitation Act, there has been no progress in spreading the use of low-floor busses.

We can suggest that the country take the lead to establish a taskforce team, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities and private organizations, to create a system of transportation services for persons with disabilities and the elderly in the Tohoku area.

Due to the nuclear power plant accident, radioactive material has been scattered across the prefecture. There is no telling as to how serious the damage is due to the radioactive material.

There are some persons with disabilities who voluntarily evacuated to other prefectures from fear of radiation. Based upon this, TEPCO and the country should cooperate in order to provide living security that includes securing assistance for those people.

We must reconstruct houses in places where the levels of radioactivity are extremely low.

Furthermore, all those houses should be built with universal design. In the case of Fukushima prefecture, the population outflow of young people will accelerate due to the nuclear power plant accident.

Under such circumstances, the people who remain will need to be able to carry on life there. The population of elderly people and persons with disabilities will increase, thus we need to consider housing for communal living as well. We need to prepare in order to be able to quickly help evacuate the elderly and persons with disabilities, in the rare event that another accident like that of the no. 1 power plant was to occur again.

In Fukushima prefecture, currently the number of helpers rendering welfare services to persons with disabilities and the elderly people are decreasing.

Because of that, the number of children and infants at kindergartens and day-care centers are decreasing, leading to an excessive number of staff in those facilities.

It is proposed that in thinking about securing jobs for those offering services for children, we devise an Urgent Labor Correspondence System (tentative name).

- **Regarding the participation of organizations of and for persons with disabilities in devising a plan for reconstruction and its implementation**

(1) In spite of our experiences with earthquakes such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Chuetsu Earthquake, we have devised reconstruction plans disregarding persons with disabilities who are also Japanese citizens.

We must regard this Great East Japan Earthquake as our first step and chance and I propose that we establish Reconstruction Planning Committees for the country and each local government that will seriously listen to the opinions of persons with disabilities who are the first people to be affected by a disaster.

We also need to invite many organizations of and for persons with disabilities to participate in this Committee.

- **Other**

There will surely be other major earthquakes in the future.

We need to learn from this Earthquake and further strengthen disaster prevention measures.

First, we need to start with evacuation shelters and make school gymnasiums and other such structures which are full of barriers into barrier-free buildings. Before another earthquake occurs, we must prepare compact baths and toilets that are user-friendly for persons with disabilities and for the elderly. Therefore, whenever such a disaster should occur, we can install these baths and toilets at evacuation shelters.

In Fukushima prefecture, temporary housing was built in the summer of last year throughout the prefecture.

The Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas visited temporary houses located in various places in the prefecture and conducted investigations.

We found that temporary houses offered little comfort to people with severe physical disabilities and in some cases they were impossible to live in.

Furthermore, although slopes could be found here and there on some temporary houses, the people living there were ordinary people and not persons with disabilities.

In spite of our experience with the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake 17 years ago, we have not built temporary houses that consider persons with disabilities. We must build such temporary houses in response to future major earthquakes.

From design stage (standardization), we must build temporary houses that are easy for persons with disabilities to live in, meaning houses with entrances that are wide enough for a wheelchair to go through, houses without steps, houses with baths and toilets that leave wide enough spaces to allow care-providers to give support, and houses that can accommodate beds.

Since many elderly people will be living in temporary houses, all the temporary houses need to be built with universal design.

(Attachments from this article can be viewed on the Cabinet Office's homepage for measures for persons with disabilities: Committee for Disability Policy Reform > 37th > Document 6.)

http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/suishin/kaikaku/s_kaigi/k_37/pdf/s6.pdf

(Reports from three additional reporters, Takashi Koyama from the Iwate Kyosaren Support Center, Hiroshi Ono from the JDF Miyagi Support Center, and Takashi Yahata from the Yume Kaze Fund were regrettably omitted due to length.)

Please refer to Cabinet Office's homepage for measures for persons with disabilities).



JDF Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities in Affected Areas

"The Earthquake and Persons with Disabilities"

(3) Support During Disasters for Persons with Disabilities and Protection of Personal Information

With the development of our information society, the protection of personal information has become an important issue and led to the enactment of the Personal Information Protection Act.

Needless to say, disabilities such as physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, mental disorders are strictly confidential personal information protected by the government and the government shall never disclose such information without the consent of the individual concerned.

However, in the Great East Japan Earthquake, there were many cases where organizations of and for persons with disabilities asked the basic local governments of cities, towns, and villages, to disclose information about persons with disabilities.

It was difficult for most of the cities, towns and villages to respond to these requests due to the rules concerning the protection of personal information.

Under such circumstances, many of the cities, towns, and villages of the coastal regions of Fukushima Prefecture had to cope with disasters caused by not only the Earthquake and tsunami, but also the accident, which occurred at the Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant run by TEPCO.

Organizations of and for persons with disabilities asked Minamisoma City to disclose personal information about persons with disabilities taking the stance of asking for "disclosure due to emergency". The city judged that in terms of "securing the lives and bodies, and properties of persons with disabilities", disclosing such information was appropriate.

In Minamisoma City, safety confirmation and evacuation of users of welfare services for persons with disabilities such as inpatient facilities, outpatient facilities and home help was conducted at each facility respectively. However, it was initially not possible to verify the safety of individuals using home help services and homebound persons with disabilities

Among those disable persons who do not use such services, Minamisoma City disclosed the information of people with physical and intellectual disabilities, through the cooperation of the specified nonprofit corporation Center Support Peers and the JDF Fukushima Support Center for Persons with disabilities, the city was able to confirm the safety of 590 people.

Regarding persons with mental disorders, health nurses of the city and the prefecture conducted their safety confirmation by looking at whether outpatient mental medical service recipients continued to receive mental treatment.

(Please refer to page 29 for the report by Minamisoma City.)

(In this column, we received the cooperation of the Health Welfare Dept. of Minamisoma City)

"The Earthquake and Persons with Disabilities"

(4) Mortality rate of persons with disabilities in the Great East Japan Earthquake

There were an enormous number of casualties in the Great East Japan Earthquake: 15,858 deaths, 3,057 missing people, and 6,077 people wounded (figures all according to the Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Control, May 1, 2012). However, the mortality rate of persons with disabilities is said to be higher in comparison with the mortality rate of all victims in affected areas.

Here, we would like to introduce data regarding the mortality rate of persons with disabilities published by local governments.

[Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture] (From data provided by Miyako City in the field study conducted by Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform (December 15, 2011))

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Miyako City	59,636 people	
Number of persons with disabilities	3,371 people	Number of physical disability certificate holders
Total number of deaths in Miyako City (Percentage of total population)	525 people (0.9%)	Until August 26, 2011 (No changes after this date)
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of person with disabilities in Miyako City)	36 people (1.1%)	Breakdown: Physical disabilities: 28 people, intellectual disabilities: 2 people, mental disorders: 7 people, both physical and intellectual disabilities: 1 person

[Miyagi Prefecture] Created by the Cabinet Office from materials distributed at the Opinion Exchange Meeting hosted by welfare organizations of and for persons with disabilities and Miyagi Prefecture (Data regarding total population and number of persons with disabilities in Miyagi Prefecture are taken from publicized materials)

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Miyagi Prefecture Estimate by Miyagi Prefecture (March 1, 2011)	2,346,853 people	
Number of persons with disabilities (Including the “3 cities”)	107,150 people	Number of physical disability certificate holders (As of March 31, 2011), Physical disabilities: 80,457 people, medical treatment and education type A: 7,066 people, medical treatment and education type B: 8,822 people, mental health and welfare: 10,805 people
Total number of deaths in Miyagi Prefecture (Percentage of total population)	9,471 people (0.4%)	As of February 29, 2012
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of persons with disabilities in Miyagi Prefectures (excluding the “3 cities”)	1,028 people (1.7%)	As of February 29, 2012. The number of deaths of persons with disabilities in Sendai City, Watari and Yamato is unknown. (The number of persons with disabilities in Miyagi Prefecture excluding those in the “3 cities” is 61,724 people.)

*http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/JDF/20120323_miyagi/index.html

(The “3 cities” mentioned in the table are Sendai City, Watari and Yamato)

[Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture] (From data provided by Minamisanriku in the field study conducted by Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform and other documents, (December 22, 2011))

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Minamisanriku	17,666 people	
Number of persons with disabilities	940 people	
Total number of deaths in Minamisanriku (Percentage of total population)	798 people (4.5%)	
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of persons with disabilities in Minamisanriku)	125 people (13%)	Physical disabilities: 113 people, intellectual disabilities: 5 people, mental disorders: 7 people. The biggest reason for this is thought to be the fact that 74 people died at Shizugawa Public Hospital and 40 people died at a home for elderly people, requiring special care.

[Minamisoma-shi, Fukushima]

(From data provided by Minamisoma City in the field study conducted by Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform, (December 16, 2011))

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Minamisoma City	71,556 people	
Number of persons with disabilities	4,280 people	
Total number of deaths in Minamisoma (Percentage of Minamisoma City total population)	1,249 people (1.75%)	
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of persons with disabilities in Minamisoma City)	19 people (0.44%)	Number of people who returned their certificates before November. Breakdown: Physical disabilities: 18 people, mental disorders: 1 person

The Cabinet Office (Disaster Management Division) plans to implement the FY 2012 “Investigation on Measures for People Requiring Aid in the event of Disaster”. This is to grasp how people requiring aid in the event of disaster such

as persons with disabilities were devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and how they were evacuated. Through this investigation, the Cabinet Office is to review the necessity of reconsidering measures for people requiring aid in the event of disaster, and how to approach this.

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.

(The government has provided continual financial contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability. In fiscal year 2011, the government contributed approximately 30 thousand dollars US to the fund.)

As cooperation within the Asian and Pacific region, Japan supported the activities of ESCAP through the Japan ESCAP Cooperation Fund (JECF) and contributed 85,000 US dollars to the Fund in fiscal year 2011.

- The 61st General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) by consensus at in December 2006. The CRPD entered into force in May 2008. The number of Member States at the CRPD as of 31st March 2012 is 111. Japan signed this Convention in September 2007. Japan is working forward the conclusion of the Convention as soon as possible, taking into account the discussion at the Ministerial Board for Disability Policy Reform and the Conference for Disability Policy Reform.

Chart26 7 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Contents)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Contents

(Note) The contents below are not decided and may change in the progress in presenting it to the Diet.

Preamble

Article 1 - Purpose

Article 2 - Definitions

Article 3 - General principles

Article 4 - General obligations

Article 5 - Equality and non-discrimination

Article 6 - Women with disabilities

Article 7 - Children with disabilities

Article 8 - Awareness-raising

Article 9 - Accessibility

Article 10 - Right to life

Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

Article 12 - Equal recognition before the law

Article 13 - Access to justice

Article 14 - Liberty and security of person

Article 15 - Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading
treatment punishment

Article 16 - Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

Article 17 - Protecting the integrity of the person

Article 18 - Liberty of movement and nationality

Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community

Article 20 - Personal mobility

Article 21 - Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to
information

Article 22 - Respect for privacy

Article 23 - Respect for home and the family

Article 24 - Education

Article 25 - Health

Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation

Article 27 - Work and employment

Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection

Article 29 - Participation in political and public life

Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

Article 31 - Statistics and data collection

Article 32 - International cooperation

Article 33 - National implementation and monitoring

Article 34 - Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Article 35 - Reports by States Parties

Article 36 - Consideration of reports

Article 37 - Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee

Article 38 - Relationship of the Committee with other bodies

Article 39 - Report of the Committee

Article 40 - Conference of States Parties

Article 41 - Depositary

Article 42 - Signature

Article 43 - Consent to be bound

Article 44 - Regional integration organizations

Article 45 - Entry into force

Article 46 - Reservations

Article 47 - Amendments

Article 48 - Denunciation

Article 49 - Accessible format

Article 50 - Authentic texts

Afterword

Chapter III Building Foundations of Independent Participation in Society

1 Education and Training of Children with Disabilities

Special Needs Education is education for children with disabilities, in consideration of their individual educational needs, which aims at the full development of their capabilities and at their independence and social participation. Special Needs Education is carried out in various forms, including in resource rooms, in classes for special needs education (both are in regular schools), and in special needs education schools.

The amendment of the School Education Act went into force in April 2007. The system of schools for the blind, for the deaf, and for children with intellectual disability, physical disability, and health impairment was converted to a system of schools for special needs education that can provide education to students with a diverse range of disabilities. The amendment requests schools for special needs education, by applying the specialized knowledge and skills they have accumulated, to endeavor to advise and support primary and secondary schools where students with disabilities are enrolled in response to their requests to fulfill the role and functions as local centers for special needs education (function as resource centers). Meanwhile, a new article was added that clearly requires primary and secondary schools to develop special needs education for children with disabilities, including developmental disabilities.

【Main Measures】

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology formulated and proclaimed the standard of textbooks printed in large characters to be used in primary, secondary and high schools. The Ministry accelerated the publication of textbooks printed in large characters by textbook publishers. Meanwhile, following the wishes of volunteer groups publishing textbooks printed in large characters, the Ministry offered digital data versions of textbooks, thus lightening the burden represented by publishing those books.

- A research study project has been undertaken called the Deeper Learning with Information and Communication Technology Learning Innovation Project since

fiscal year 2009, with a view to develop textbooks and instructional materials tailored to the level of each person with disabilities and to do pragmatic research into what the appropriate instructional materials should be, how best to use them in teaching and their likely educational outcomes.

- At the National Institute of Special Needs Education, the government is conducting research on the use of telecommunications technology. Furthermore the government is planning for ways to carry out training for people in leadership roles in the field of education throughout all the various municipal levels of the nation; while also considering how to realize financial support systems for education based on up to date communications with those in education.

Additionally via the institute, the government is in the process of providing lectures on various training and up to date information on education via the Disabilities Developmental Disabilities Education Related Information website in order to support training of various boards of education. Furthermore, the government is conducting training seminars for education employees and also providing general information via portal sites.

- In regards to child pupils with developmental disabilities, because it is imperative that research is done concerning text books and educational materials specialized for child students with disabilities depending on the particular traits of each pupil's perspective disability, the government is conducting, the "Special needs education research operation via support mechanisms and the aid of private organizations"

As well, the government is conducting research and use of educational materials that match the needs of the various disability conditions of children with developmental disabilities. The government is also taking into account proven educational strategies and strategies on effective uses of the various educational materials.