

Chapter 2 Mutual Understandings and Interaction

1. Enlightenment, Public Relations and others

To realize “Cohesive Society,” it is important to promote the enlightenment and public relations activities strongly by a wide range of public’s participating.

Based on “Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities,” enlightenment and public relations activities are aggressively implemented, such as varieties of events intensively take place by both public and private across the country, mainly during “Week of Persons with Disabilities” (3rd to 9th of December).

Through the teaching for deepening the understanding of welfare in school education, promotion of “Joint activities and learning” of children with disabilities and without disability, enlightenment and public relations activities for local residents, promotion of the understanding of persons with disabilities for people engaged in public services, and volunteer activities, the people’s understanding of persons with disabilities is promoted.

【Main measures and others】

- In late 5-year programme, the numerical target of familiarization about cohesive society of the youth in 20’ has been set as same as that (50%) of all generations since enlightenment and public relations activities for the youth are important, but it was just 40.9% for all the generations, and 34.8% for the youth in 20’. However, compared with the percentage of 5 years ago, it has increased.
- “Promotion of Freeing Your Mind and Understanding the Persons with Disabilities” project is being implemented: we called for entries of and prize was given for “Essay on Free Your Mind experience” that elementary and junior high school students wrote on the interaction with persons with disabilities, and “Poster of “Week of Persons with Disabilities.” The prizewinning works were compiled to be a collection book, which was distributed to elementary, junior high, high schools and others across the country for promotion of public understanding of persons with disabilities.
- In an event of “Week of Persons with Disabilities” of FY2012, “Forum of Persons with Disabilities, 2012” commemorating the final year of “Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2003 to 2012,” took place on 3rd December in Tokyo, with the pleasure of Crown Prince’s company at the event. Persons and organizations of merit involved in persons with disabilities were commended by Prime Minister, and most excellent works of “Essay on Free Your Mind Experience” and “Poster of “Week of Persons with Disabilities” were commended by Prime Minister, and the award winner of the essay recited his/her essay. Also, the exhibition of the original paintings of the prize-winning posters of “Week of Persons with Disabilities” and the works recommended by prefectures took place in Tokyo. In the ceremony we also invited Mr. MacCullum, chairperson of UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and held the panel discussion.
- In “Week of Persons with Disabilities,” the central and local governments, private concerned bodies and others held their own events and performed enlightenment

and Public Relations activities actively, starting with NHK's Heart exhibition, barrier-free class by local transportation bureau and others.

- During the period of "Month of Support for Employment of Persons with disabilities" (1st to 30th, September), "Mental Health Welfare Promotion Movement" (24th to 30th, October), and "Human Rights Week" (4th to 10th, December), activities of enlightenment and public relations are conducted to deepen the public understanding for persons with disabilities.
- Every 2nd April is "World Day of Enlightenment of Autism," and a week from 2nd to 8th April is "Week of Enlightenment of Developmental Disorder." In FY2012, the symposium hosted by Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare and Autism Society Japan, for disseminating to understand the correct knowledge about developmental disorder starting from autism, took place on 7th April.
- In order for all the people including persons with disabilities to live a comfortable social life, from the point of view of promoting barrier-free and universal design in both aspects of hardware and software effectively and comprehensively, individuals and organizations that have remarkably distinguished his/herself/themselves for the promotion are commended by Prime Minister. In FY2012, eight organizations have been commended.
- In regard to the situation of "Committee for Policy of Persons with Disabilities," the video and voice were distributed for the specified period on the homepage of Cabinet Office, and also distributed was the page interpreted by sign language and the one on which summarized description is shown. Also, conference materials were shown before the video starts.
- Cabinet Office conducted "Young Core Leader of Social Activities Development Programs," which is to foster leaders who will become a main leader of social activities. In FY2012, in the related field of disabled person, nine young people were sent to Denmark, and the young leaders of Britain, Denmark and Germany, 39 in total, were invited to Japan.
- The police provide training programs including practical training at facilities for persons with disabilities and lectures by academic experts to police officials from initial training stage at their appointment in police schools and work places like police stations for deepening the understanding on the characteristics of persons with disabilities and the communication considering their disabilities.
- For personnel working at correction facilities like prisons, many kinds of trainings are given in correction training centers and 8 branch offices of correction training centers. In there, subjects like pro-human rights and psychiatric medicine are provided, and the lectures are offered on an appropriate way of response, and further, work-study practice of nursing care in a social welfare facility is conducted to promote the understanding of persons with disability.

2. International Cooperation

As one of basic policies of official development assistance, with a goal of ensuring fairness including consideration to persons with disability, Japan offers free financial aid like construction of rehabilitation facilities, job training facilities and others for persons with disabilities, and a wide range of technical cooperation, such as accepting trainees, and dispatch of experts, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and others.

【Main Measures】

- In terms of loan assistance, we offer a cooperation considering the use of persons with disability, such as designing the facilities to promote barrier-free in construction of railway and airport. In FY2012, we have decided the assistance to 6 business projects including the contents relating to consideration to persons with disabilities. In terms of free financial cooperation, we have offered cooperation, such as construction of rehabilitation facilities and job training facilities for persons with disabilities, donation of a mini bus for travelling and others. In FY2012, by free financial cooperation of human security and the grass-root, we have offered 51 assistances relating to persons with disabilities to NGOs, educational organizations, local municipalities and others.
- In terms of technical cooperation, through independent administrative entity, Japan International Cooperation Agency, we have offered a wide-range of cooperation like acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts. In terms of technical cooperation projects, “Social Welfare Administrator Development Project, Phase II” (Myanmar), “Project of Support Service of Persons with Disabilities’ Social Participation, Phase II” (Malaysia), and others are in operation.
- In terms of the assistance through Japan’s NGO activities, with cooperation of Japan NGO free financial aid, in FY2012, the central government has offered the assistance cooperation to 7 projects relating to persons with disabilities. Also, we continuously contribute funding to International Foundation for Persons with Disabilities, and released about \$30,000 in FY2012. In terms of cooperation to Asia and the Pacific region, we offered the assistance for the activities through Japan ESCAP Cooperation Foundation (JECF) to UN Economic and Social Committee, Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and released about \$160,000 in FY2012.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted consensus in the plenary session of the 61st UN General Assembly in December, 2006. The convention became effective on 3rd May, 2008. As of 31st March, 2013, signatory countries and organization number 130. Japan signed the convention in September, 2008. At present, we are aiming at the conclusion at an appropriate time, based on the movement of Task Force on Promotion of Institutional Reform for Persons with Disabilities and Committee for Policy of Persons with Disabilities.
- In November, 2012, in “Final Review of the 2nd Asian and Pacific Decade of

Persons with Disabilities, High-level Intergovernmental Conference,” “Incheon Strategy”, which is an action programme of “The 3rd Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities,” was adopted, and ten goals relating to the measures for persons with disabilities were set, such as “Eliminate Poverty and Improve the prospect for labor and employment,” “Promote the participation in political process and policy decision” and others.