

Chapter 4 Mutual Understanding and Interaction

1 Awareness-raising

In order to realize the “Cohesive Society” that the “Third Basic Program for Persons with Disabilities” (FY2013 – FY2017) promotes, this idea is to be disseminated and public understanding of disability and persons with disabilities is to be promoted, and in order to obtain public cooperation in accommodation for persons with disabilities awareness-raising activities are to be promoted through the participation of a wide range of people.

[Main measures]

(1) The “Project for Promoting Understanding of Persons with Disabilities to Expand Your Mind’s Connections is promoted, and students including elementary and junior high students from all over Japan were invited to enter two contests, “Essays on Experiences with Expanding Your Mind’s Connections” for essays written about interactions with persons with disabilities and “Posters for the Week of Persons with Disabilities.” The understanding of persons with disabilities is being promoted by various means including preparing collections of these prizewinning works and distributing them to facilities including elementary, junior high and high schools.

(2) As for the events held during the “Week of Persons with Disabilities” in FY2013, various ceremonies were held mainly in Tokyo and in each region.

In Tokyo, the “Forum of Persons with Disabilities 2014” was held on December 3 and prizewinning works from the “Essays on Experiences with Expanding Your Mind’s Connections” and “Posters for the Week of Persons with Disabilities” were honored by the Prime Minister. Also, keynote lectures and panel discussions were delivered on the theme of “Upon Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” A “Seminar Series for the Week of Persons with Disabilities” on various subject matters relating to persons with disabilities was given by different organizations for people with disability, which took turns holding seminars, and lectures and panel discussions and the like were also delivered.

Also, an exhibition of original artwork from the Posters for the Week of Persons with Disabilities and other works was held in Tokyo, and entities including the national government, local governments and concerned private organizations actively conducted awareness raising activities of their own, starting with learning opportunities promoting the adoption of barrier-free environments by Local Transport Bureaus and the like.

(3) During the “Month of Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities” (September 1 – 30), the “Movement for the Implementation of Mental Health Welfare” (October 27 – November 2) and “Human Rights Week” (December 4 – 10), awareness-raising activities to deepen the public understanding of persons with disabilities are carried out.

(4) On “World Autism Awareness Day” on April 2 and during the “Week of Awareness-raising on Developmental Disorders” from April 2 to April 8, various awareness-

raising activities are conducted by entities including the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, local governments all over Japan and concerned organizations.

- (5) With a view to effectively and comprehensively promoting barrier-free and universal design in both hardware and software in order for all persons including persons with disabilities to live comfortable social lives, individuals and associations that have made distinguished achievements or contributions with regard to such promotion are honored by the Prime Minister. In 2014, six associations were honored.
- (6) As for the “Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities,” the entirety of every meeting of the Commission from beginning to end is made available on-demand for a certain period of time on the Internet using videos files, audio files, sign language and written summaries. The materials for each meeting are also posted on the website of the Cabinet Office on the day of each meeting before the meeting starts.
- (7) The police provide training programs including practical training at facilities for persons with disabilities and lectures by academic experts to police officers 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.
- (8) For personnel working at correctional institutions including prisons, various types of training are being provided in Training Institute for Correctional Personnel and eight branch institutes; providing on-site practice to learn about nursing care at social welfare facilities and giving lectures on human rights and psychiatry to learn about how to deal persons with disabilities, to improve understanding of persons with disabilities.
- (9) The Cabinet Office implemented the “Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program” to foster leaders who will become the driving force of civil society groups. In FY2014, with regard to field relevant to persons with disabilities, nine Japanese youths (including the Delegation Leader) were dispatched to the UK, and young leaders from Denmark, Germany and the UK, 10 persons in total, were invited to Japan.

2 International Cooperation

Japan ratified in January 2014 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which is intended to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and this took effect for Japan in February of the same year. Because it is very effective and important to make available to developing countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA) the skills and measures for persons with disabilities that Japan has accumulated. Japan provides various forms of cooperation so that the developing countries can formulate effective measures for persons with disabilities.

[Main Measures]

- (1) As for loan aid, cooperation was provided for the usability of facilities for persons with disabilities by constructing barrier-free designed facilities including stations and airports.
- (2) As for grant aid, cooperation in consideration of use by persons with disabilities as well as cooperation including development of rehabilitation facilities and vocational training facilities and provision of minibuses for persons with disabilities are being pursued. Furthermore, grassroots-level cooperation in partnership with NGOs and other nonprofit organizations has been implemented.
- (3) In the area of technical cooperation, a wide range of cooperation including acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts and volunteers is being implemented through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).“The Project to Support Participation of Persons with Disabilities (Phase 2)” in Malaysia and other projects have been in operation as part of technical projects.
- (4) As for cooperation through international organizations, continuous contributions have been provided to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, and in FY2014, about \$10,000 were disbursed. As for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan supports the activities of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific- (ESCAP) through the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund (JECF). In April 2014, the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai City with the assistance of Japan.