

## Chapter 6 Global Efforts

### Measures Related to International Cooperation in Accordance with Japan's International Position

#### 1. Global Efforts for Persons with Disabilities

##### (1) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

"The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (hereinafter referred to as "CRPD") was adopted at the 61st General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2006, with a view to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. It entered into force in May 2008. As of March 31, 2018, the number of States and Organizations Parties to the CRPD is 177.

Japan has actively participated in the process of drafting the CRPD and signed in September, 2007. Subsequently, various laws and systems have been streamlined in Japan such as the revision of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (August 2011), etc. Japan deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the CRPD to the United Nations in January, 2014 and it entered into force in February, 2014. According to the CRPD, each State party shall submit "a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard" to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Article 35 of the CRPD). Particularly, the first report needs to be submitted within 2 years of this convention coming into effect.

Japan has prepared the State Party report based on the discussions at the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities and public comments, and submitted the first State Party report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June, 2016. The report is scheduled to be reviewed by the Committee and released as a UN document after adopting the Committee's concluding observations including its suggestions and recommendations.

##### (2) ESCAP: The Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities

In order to raise awareness about persons with disabilities and improve the regional policy levels for them in the Asia-Pacific region, as replacement for the "UN Decade of Disabled Persons," Japan and China advocated the "Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities" in 1992, which was then approved at the general assembly of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). In May 2012, the general assembly of the ESCAP approved the "ESCAP 3rd Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022)" which was co-sponsored by Japan. In November 2012, at the final review and high-level intergovernmental meeting for the 2nd Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, the "Incheon Strategy," an action plan of the "ESCAP 3rd Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities" was approved. In the "Incheon Strategy," it specifies 10 objectives, 27 targets that need to be achieved within the given period, and 62 indexes to confirm the progress of policies for persons with

disabilities, such as “poverty reduction and improvement of labor and employment prospects,” “promotion of the participation in the political process and policy decision.”

**(3) Information Provision and Collection**

In order to provide information related to the Japan’s policies for persons with disabilities, the Cabinet has prepared the English-version “Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities” and “Summary of White Paper on Persons with Disabilities,” which is accessible on the Cabinet Office website (English).

**2. Promotion of International Cooperation**

**(1) Basic Policy of International Cooperation**

Japan supports through ODAs and others measures for persons with disabilities taken by developing countries in a wide range of fields such as welfare, health care, medical treatment, education and employment including by utilizing technologies and experiences accumulated in these fields. In cooperating with those countries, Japan makes efforts to realize cooperation in a mutually satisfactory manner by seeking to fully understanding their conditions and requests, respecting their cultures and implementing close policy dialogues.

**(2) ODA Loan**

ODA Loans are formulated by considering the use of facilities by persons with disabilities including through seeking barrier-free planning for railway and airport projects, etc.

**(3) Grant Aid**

Due consideration is given for the use by persons with disabilities in Grant Aids. Every year many projects such as construction of rehabilitation and vocational training facilities for them and provision of minibuses for their transportation are implemented.

**(4) Technical Cooperation**

In addition to technical cooperation aimed at persons with disabilities, Japan has also been accepting trainees and dispatching experts and JICA volunteers in order to support the participation of persons with disabilities in all fields of the development process through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

**(5) Cooperation through International Organizations**

In cooperation with the international organizations such as the United Nations, Japan has been continuously contributing to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability. With regards cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region, the Government has been supporting the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) through Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund (JECF).