

FY2024
Annual Report on
Government Measures for
Persons with Disabilities

(White Paper on Persons with Disabilities 2025)

(Summary)

June 2025
Cabinet Office Japan

The White Paper on Persons with Disabilities is an annual report on the general status of measures taken for persons with disabilities pursuant to the provisions of Article 13 of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 84 of 1970).

About the White Paper on Persons with Disabilities

- The White Paper on Persons with Disabilities, which gives a summary of the measures being taken for persons with disabilities, is annually submitted to the National Diet pursuant to the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 84 of 1970). This year's White Paper is the 32nd edition.
- In addition, the White Paper describes the status of implementation of measures concerning acquisition and use of information and communication by persons with disabilities based on the Act on the Promotion of Measures Concerning Acquisition and Use of Information and Communication by Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 50 of 2022).

Key Points of the 2025 White Paper on Persons with Disabilities

- The 2025 White Paper on Persons with Disabilities provides an overview of the “Action Plan Toward a Society of Coexistence Without Prejudice or Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities” formulated by the national government with the aim of eradicating prejudice and discrimination against persons with disabilities, as well as explaining the compensation for those who underwent eugenic surgery under the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law, and permanent measures.
- It also introduces the status of the “Intermediary Desk” established by the Cabinet Office, and the initiatives by the national government towards publicity and awareness-raising. In addition, it reports on and introduces the governmental initiatives in fiscal year 2024 covering education, employment, daily life, town planning, and information accessibility, and the responses to the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, along with the situation affecting persons with disabilities.

Main descriptions in the summary

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| (1) Action Plan Toward a Society of Coexistence Without Prejudice or Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities | Summary from page 3 |
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| (3) Amended Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (“Intermediary Desk”), etc. | Summary from page 6 |

Other topics include education, employment, daily life, town planning, information accessibility, and responses to the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake.	Summary from page 8
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In principle, the data and figures published in this White Paper are based on data and materials published by each ministry and agency as of March 31, 2025. In addition to confirmed values, these may include preliminary figures (provisional values, estimated values), etc. Therefore, differences may occur after the publication of this White Paper.

Chapter 1. Efforts to Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (1)

Background

- In the 48 years since the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law was enacted in 1948, many people have been forced to undergo sterilization surgery and other procedures based on or as a result of this law, for reasons such as specific illnesses or disabilities, and have suffered unbearable pain and hardship.

- July 2024

The Supreme Court ruled that the provisions of the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law were unconstitutional and illegal under the State Redress Act. The national government took this ruling seriously, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio met with a group of plaintiffs to offer a formal apology. That same month, reflecting sincere remorse, the government established the “Headquarters for Promoting Measures Towards a Society of Coexistence Free from Prejudice and Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities” (Chair: Prime Minister, Members: All Cabinet Ministers). On September 30 of the same year, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the group of plaintiffs.



Source: Prime Minister's Office website
(https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/101_kishida/actions/202407/17menkai.html)

Action Plan Toward a Society of Coexistence Without Prejudice or Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (determined by the Promotion Headquarters on December 27, 2024)

- Background to Formulation of the Action Plan

A steering committee was established under the Promotion Headquarters, and interviews were held with numerous individuals, including victims of the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law and persons with disabilities.

- Thinking Underlying the Action Plan

Based on the thinking of the “social model” of disability, and with a firm resolve to break away from “eugenics prejudice and discrimination against persons with specific illnesses or disabilities” as well as from “attitudes and actions that treat persons without disabilities as the norm and regard persons with disabilities as inferior”, the government is committed to working together to realize a society of coexistence without prejudice and discrimination against persons with disabilities.



Source: Prime Minister's Office website
(<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/103/actions/202412/27kyouseishakai.html>)

Chapter 1. Efforts to Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (2)

- Summary of the Action Plan

- Based on the key concerns raised by the parties involved during the interviews, the following issues were identified as requiring action.

- (1) Promoting support measures that enable individuals to live their lives according to their own choosing, including such areas as fostering children
- (2) Enhancing efforts to shift the mindsets of public employees
- (3) Enhancing efforts to promote “barrier-free minds” as advocated in the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan
- (4) Continuing discussions on future measures based on the opinions of persons with disabilities
 - The Action Plan is followed up on an ongoing basis to ensure a PDCA cycle is in place.

Opinions were also heard at the Committee on Policies for Persons with Disabilities and will be reflected in the next Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities.

G7 Ministers’ Meeting on Inclusion and Disability (TOPICS)

- The first G7 Ministers’ Meeting on Inclusion and Disability was held in Italy in October 2024.
- At the ministerial meetings and other meetings, Junko Mihara, Minister of State for Special Missions in the Cabinet Office, expressed sincere remorse over the fact that forced sterilizations, induced abortions, and other such measures were carried out under the Now-defunct Eugenic

Protection Law, and emphasized her strong determination to work towards the eradication of prejudice and discrimination against persons with disabilities.



Minister Mihara signing the Charter



Minister Mihara giving a speech

Chapter 1. Efforts to Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (3)

Act on the Payment of Compensation, etc. to Persons Who Underwent Eugenic Surgery, etc. Under the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law (Act No. 70 of 2024)

- About the “Compensation Payment Act”
- The “Compensation Payment Act” (bill proposed by a member of the National Diet) was passed unanimously by the Diet and enacted on October 8, 2024, and promulgated on the 17th of the same month.
 - * Main contents of the Act
- In the preamble, the nation and the government seriously acknowledged their responsibility, with regret and remorse, and offered their deepest and sincere apologies.

- Even those who have not filed a lawsuit are eligible for compensation.
- Compensation of 15 million yen will be paid to individuals who underwent eugenic surgery under the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law, and 5 million yen will be paid to designated spouses.
- A lump sum of 3.2 million yen will be paid to surviving individuals who underwent eugenic surgery or other procedures under the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law, and 2 million yen will be paid to surviving individuals who underwent induced abortions or other procedures.



Source: Prime Minister's Office website

(<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/103/actions/202501/17menkai.html>)

• On January 17, 2025, the day the Compensation Payment Act came into force, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba met with the group of plaintiffs in the lawsuit seeking state compensation under the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law. He heard directly from the plaintiffs about their experiences and thoughts, and expressed his intention to do everything in his power to ensure that new compensation based on the Compensation Payment Act was delivered to the victims. The government will continue to collaborate with the prefectures and other local governments to raise awareness and publicize the Act.

- Permanent measures, etc.
- Investigation and verification, etc.

The “Compensation Payment Act stipulates that the government will conduct investigations and other related measures regarding eugenic surgeries and induced abortions carried out under the “Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law” and, based on the findings, will verify and consider the causes of these actions, and examine the measures necessary to prevent their recurrence. Moving forward, the government will consider appropriate responses in close cooperation with the Diet’s investigation.

- Ongoing and regular consultations

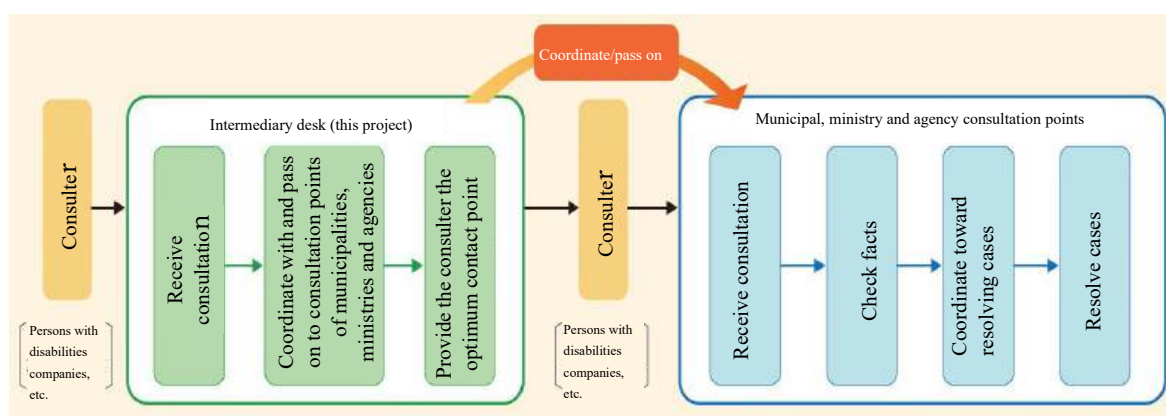
In accordance with the “Basic Agreement” of September 30, 2024, a formal forum for discussion composed of the National Eugenic Protection Law Victims Plaintiffs Group and the relevant government ministries and agencies, was established to consider and implement measures toward

a comprehensive resolution of the issues arising from the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law, and continuous and regular discussions will be held as part of this process. The first such meeting titled “First Discussion Toward Comprehensive Resolution of the Issues Arising from the Now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law” was held on March 27, 2025.

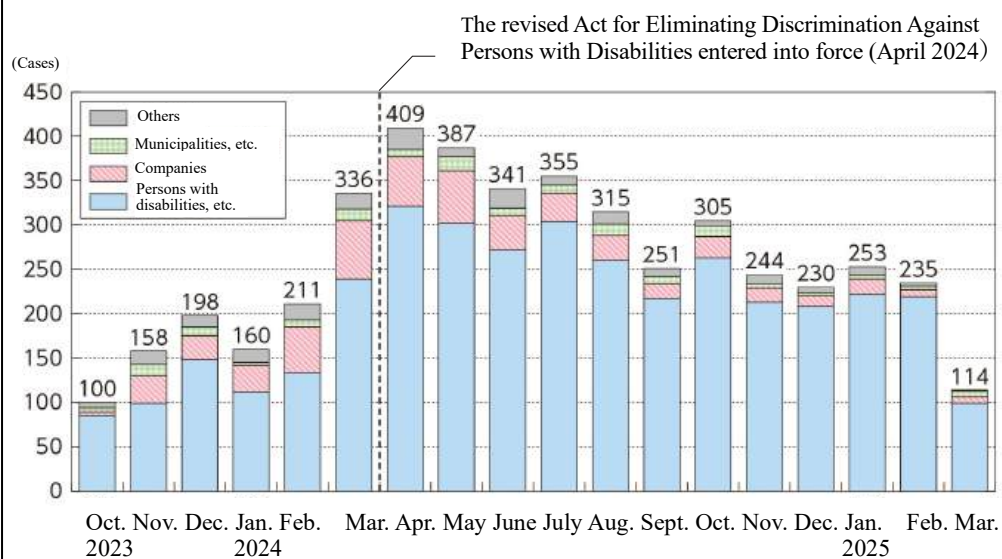
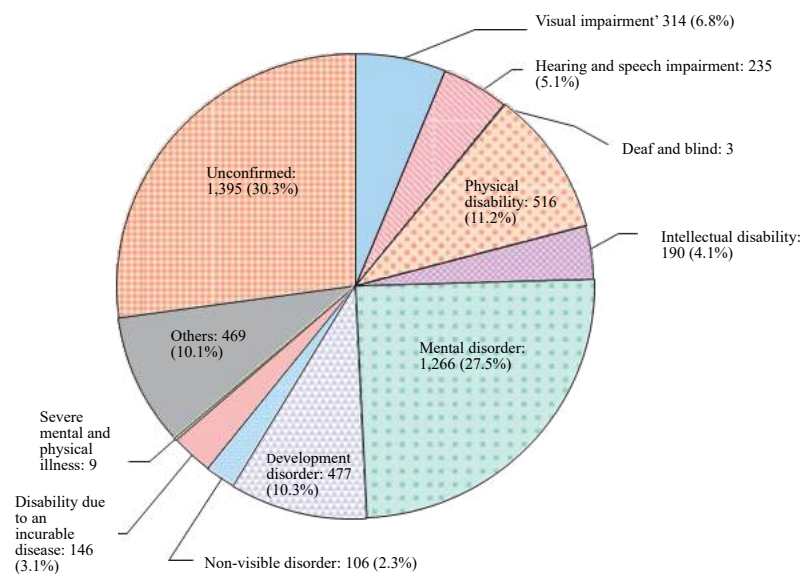
Chapter 1. Efforts to Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (4)

Amended Act for Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (“Intermediary Desk”)

- In October 2023, the Cabinet Office launched a trial “Intermediary Desk” as a national consultation point for persons with disabilities who had experienced discrimination on account of their disability.
* This initiative will continue into FY2025.
- Following the enforcement of the revised Act for Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, the number of consultations increased significantly. Many inquiries concerned public administration, medical care and welfare services, and education and learning support. (Approximately 4,600 cases were handled between October 2023 and March 2025.)



Number of intermediary desk consultation cases (by disability)



Chapter 2. Building the Foundation for a Deeper Understanding of Persons with Disabilities

- “Disability Week” is held annually from December 3 - 9, with the objective of attempting to spread the ethos of a “society of coexistence” in which all citizens respect and support each other’s personality and individuality, and to further deepen people’s interest and understanding with regard to disabilities and persons with disabilities.
- In addition, various awareness events such as “World Autism Awareness Day” and “World Mental Health Day” are held to promote greater awareness of disabilities. These events are supported and sponsored by both the national government and municipalities, etc.



Grand Prize winner Minami Tanaka’s work: Disability Week poster featuring “Notice me”



Chiori Usui, Grand Prize Essay (Elementary School Division) winner reads her essay on behalf of the award winners.



From Yokohama City’s “Appare Festa”



Aimi Tanaka, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games
Wheelchair Tennis Gold Medalist



World Autism Awareness Day
Tokyo Tower lit up in blue

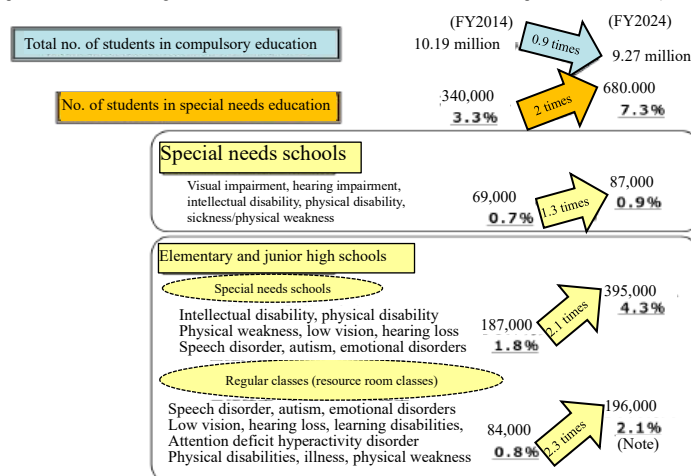
Chapter 3. Building the Foundation for Autonomy in Social Participation (1)

Enhancement of Special Needs Education

- The number of students with disabilities has been increasing, leading to a significant rise in enrolment in special needs schools and classes over the past decade. In particular, there has been a marked increase in the number of students enrolled in special needs classes and those being taught in resource rooms.
- In response to this trend, various initiatives are being implemented including improving the quality of textbooks and teaching materials for students with disabilities, promoting barrier-free school facilities, establishing a fixed quota of teachers for resource room learning, developing a system to raise awareness of developmental disorders among teachers, including those in management positions, and establishing a safe and reliable support system for students requiring medical care.
- In addition, starting from 2024, the government launched the “Inclusive School Management Model Project”, under which special needs schools are jointly operated together with elementary, junior high, or high schools, and empirical research is being conducted on new ways of teaching that allow students with and without disabilities to learn together.

Increase in the number of students in special needs schools, etc. (2014 to 2024)

- Over the past 10 years, the number of students in compulsory education has decreased by 10%, while the number of students receiving special needs education has doubled.
- In particular, there was a significant increase in the number of students enrolled in special needs classes (2.1 times) and the number of students learning through resource rooms (2.3 times).

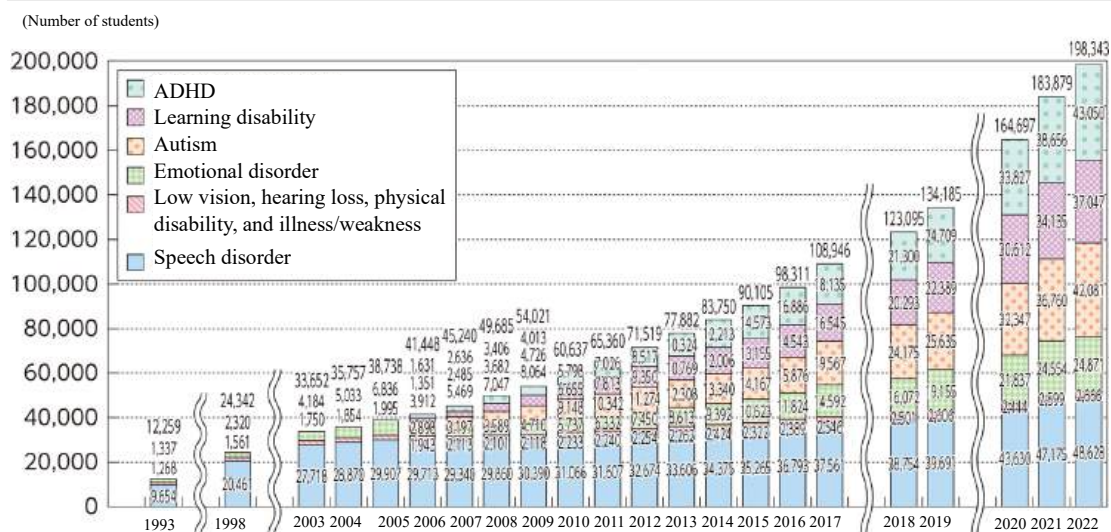


*The figures within the arrows are calculated by dividing the number of students in fiscal 2024 (fiscal 2022 for resource room learning) by the number of students in fiscal 2014, rounded to the nearest tenth.

Note. The number of students receiving resource room learning (196,000) used the most recent survey result for the whole of fiscal 2022 (public and private schools).

The number of students receiving resource room learning in fiscal 2014 (84,000) was the figure as of May 1 (public schools only).

Trends in the number of students receiving resource room teaching (by disability type)



*Figures for FY2020 to FY2022 are based on March 31 and adjusted for the number of students receiving resource room teaching throughout the year. For other years, the number of students is as of May 1 of the fiscal year.

* “Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder” and “learning disorder” have been specified as eligible for resource room learning in the Regulations for Enforcement of the School Education Act since FY2006, and “autism” has also been explicitly designated as eligible since FY2006 (up to FY2005, this was mainly aimed at students with emotional disorders).

*As of FY2018, national and private schools are included in the survey.

*Since resource room learning in high schools began in FY2018, high school figures are included from FY2018.

*Elementary schools include the early stages of compulsory education, junior high schools include the late stages of compulsory education and the early stages of secondary education, and high schools include the late stages of secondary education.

*For FY2022, in consideration of the impact of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, Ishikawa Prefecture only conducted a survey of national schools and did not conduct a survey of public or private schools.

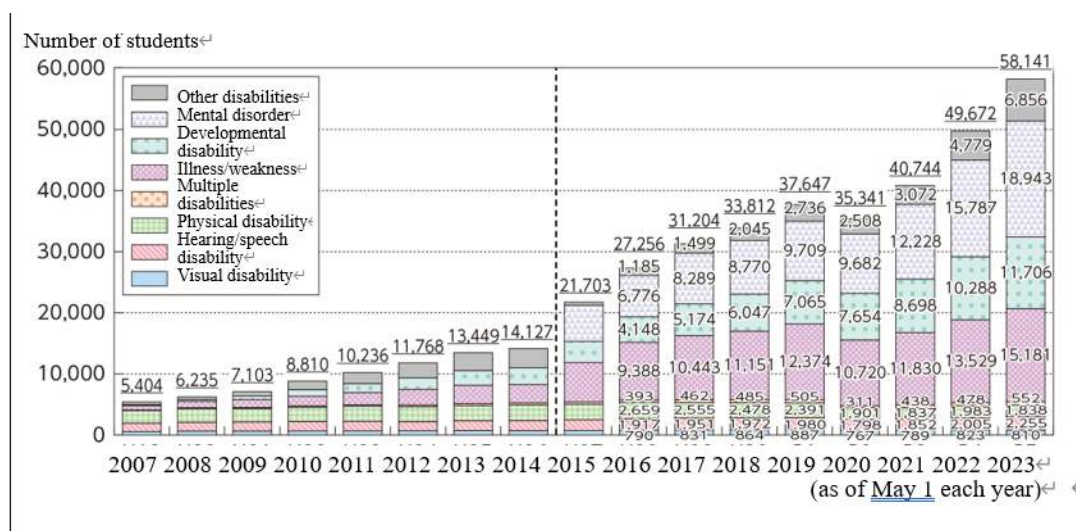
Source: Survey on the implementation of teaching through resource room learning (survey conducted by the Special Support Education Division, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

Chapter 3. Building the Foundation for Autonomy in Social Participation (2)

Support for Persons with Disabilities to Attend Higher Education, etc.

- It is important to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to study so that they do not have to give up on continuing on to higher education due to their disability. The number of students with disabilities has increased significantly in recent years, with a particularly notable rise in students with mental and developmental disorders.
- The “Project to Promote Support for the Study and Employment of Students with Disabilities” is being implemented to promote support systems for students with disabilities across all higher education institutions through the provision of consultation services for universities and students, and the training of personnel with specialized knowledge to support students with disabilities.
- In March 2024, in response to the increase in the number of students with disabilities and the requirement of the provision of reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities as mandated by law, the government compiled and disseminated the “Report of the Study Group on Academic Support for Students with Disabilities (Third Edition)”, which includes specific support measures so that all university faculty and staff will be able to provide appropriate support to students with disabilities.

No. of enrolled students with disabilities



Chapter 3. Building the Foundation for Autonomy in Social Participation (3)

Expanding Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

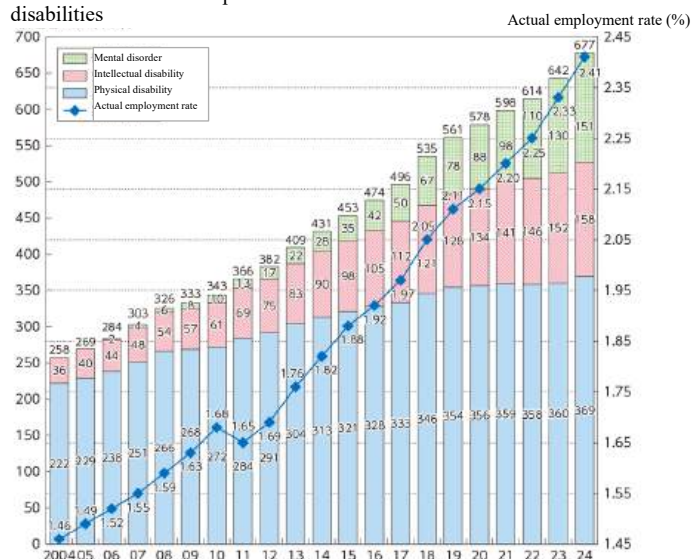
Measures to promote employment and work for persons with disabilities

- The actual employment rate of persons with disabilities employed by private companies reached a record high for the 13th consecutive year. However, a considerable number of companies are still lagging behind in their efforts to employ persons with disabilities.
- For this reason, Hello Work has been implementing “team support for companies” in collaboration with employment support organizations, targeting so-called “zero disability-employment companies”, as well as implementing a certification system (Monisu Certification System) for small and medium enterprises who are making outstanding efforts to promote the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Under the revised 2022 Act for Promotion of Employment of Persons with Disabilities:
 - Persons with mental disorders and persons with severe physical or intellectual disabilities who work particularly short hours (between 10 to 19 hours per week) are now included in the actual employment rate (effective from April 1, 2024).
 - Employer responsibilities now include measures to develop and improve the vocational skills of persons with disabilities (effective from April 1, 2023).
 - Subsidy measures to support companies’ efforts to retain employees with disabilities have been strengthened (effective April 1, 2024).

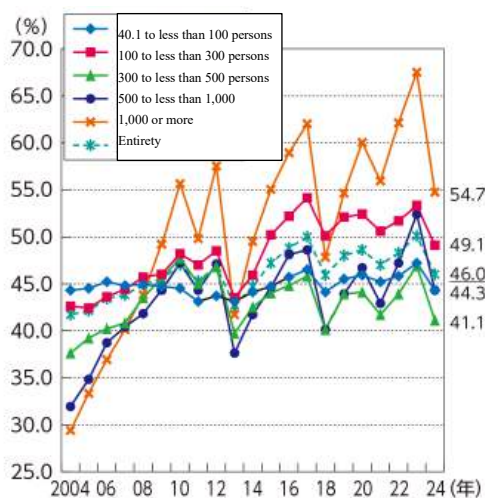
Promoting autonomy in social participation

Under the Act on Assistance Dogs for Persons with Physical Disabilities, as of April 1, 2024, workplaces with 40 or more employees are not allowed to refuse to allow the use of assistance dogs to employees with physical disabilities (Chapter 4, Section 1).

Number of thousands of persons with disabilities



○ Trends in the actual employment rate and number of employed persons with disabilities (as of June 1 of each year)



○ Percentage of companies that achieved the target by company size (as of June 1 of each year)

*56 to less than 100 persons up until 2012, 50 to less than 100 persons up until 2017
 *45.5 to less than 100 persons up until 2020
 *43.5 to less than 100 persons up until 2023
 *40.0 to less than 100 persons up until 2024



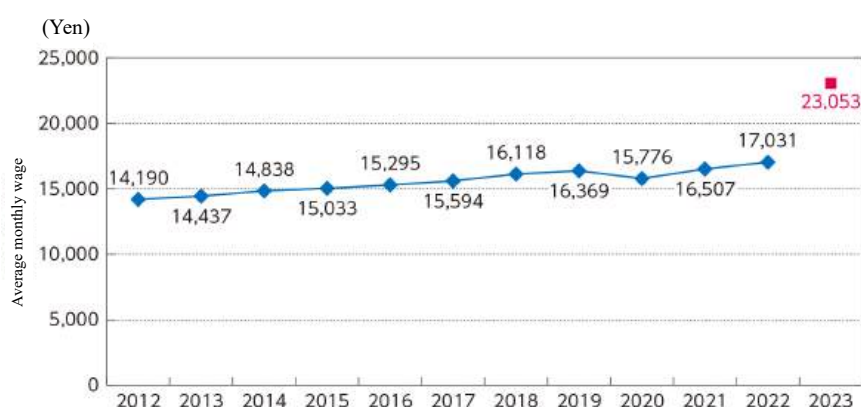
Enterprise certification mark issued to small and medium enterprises for hiring people with disabilities (Monisu)

Chapter 4. Measures to Empower Persons with Disabilities to Lead Lives of Their Choosing (1)

Support for Persons with Disabilities Working in Welfare-Related Jobs

- With the amendment of the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, an “employment selection support” system was established to assist persons with disabilities in making more informed choices regarding employment and working styles. This is achieved by using employment assessment methods to support choices that reflect individuals’ wishes, abilities, and aptitudes.
- To improve wage levels at type-B continuous employment support facilities and other similar establishments, the prefectural governments formulated new “Wage Improvement Plans” covering fiscal years 2024 to 2026. Efforts are being made to support management through collaboration with relevant government agencies, local business organizations, and other stakeholders.

- The government is prioritizing initiatives that have demonstrated relative effectiveness, such as the use of corporate management techniques by consultants and the promotion of joint orders, and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare is providing budgetary subsidies to support these efforts.



For type-B continuous employment support facilities that adopt a compensation system based on the average monthly wage, the calculation method until fiscal 2022 used the “number of persons eligible for wage payment” from the previous year as the denominator. However, under the revision of compensation for disability welfare services in fiscal 2024, a new calculation method was introduced that uses the “average number of users per day” from the previous year as the denominator. This change takes into account businesses that serve individuals who, due to the characteristics of their disability, use the service on fewer days. (From fiscal 2023, the average monthly wage is reflected based on the new calculation method.)

The Adult Guardianship System

- Based on the concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities published in October 2022, and the Second Basic Plan to Promote the Use of the Adult Guardianship System, which called for consideration of revisions to the adult guardianship system, the Legislative Council Civil Code (Adult Guardianship, etc.) Subcommittee began research and deliberation on revising the adult guardianship system in April 2024, with the participation of members from disability groups.

Major criticisms regarding adult guardianship

- (1) Use cannot be discontinued unless the individual's decision-making ability is restored
- (2) The individual's right to self-determination may be overly restricted
- (3) The individual does not receive protection that adequately meets their needs
- (4) The filing of the petition to appoint a voluntary guardianship supervisor is not made at the appropriate time

Chapter 4. Measures to Empower Persons with Disabilities to Lead Lives of Their Choosing (2)

Sports Promotion

- To create opportunities for parasports and establish sustainable sports activities, the government supports the development of sports venues and the organization of national tournaments for special needs schools and other institutions.
- The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games were held in Paris, France from Wednesday, August 28 to Sunday, September 8, 2024. Paralympic athletes won medals in 11 sports, the highest number ever at an overseas Games. In multiple disciplines, athletes won gold and other medals for the first time in their respective sports.
- The 25th Summer Deaflympics Tokyo 2025 will be held from Saturday, November 15 to Wednesday, November 26, 2025. The Games will take place mainly in Tokyo, featuring 21 sports, and will promote the vision of an inclusive society where everyone can utilize their individuality and demonstrate their strengths.



A national competition for special needs schools, etc. (National Boccia Koshien)



Wheelchair rugby players who won gold medals at the 2024 Paralympics



Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics 1 Year To Go!
Venue: Urban Dock LaLaport Toyosu

Promoting Cultural and Artistic Activities

- Based on the second phase of the “Basic Plan for the Promotion of Cultural and Artistic Activities by Persons with Disabilities”, formulated in 2023, cultural and artistic activities were promoted in a comprehensive and planned manner.



Photo: “CONNECT⇄ Art helps me to expand freely”

Chapter 5. Building the Foundation for a Comfortable Living (1)

Barrier-Free Public Transportation

- Based on the “Barrier-Free Act”, when constructing new passenger facilities such as railway stations, carrying out large-scale improvements, or introducing new vehicles, the structures and equipment must comply with the “Standards for Facilitating Public Transportation Mobility, etc.”. In March 2024, the “Guidelines for Development of Smooth Transportation” for Passenger Facilities, Vehicles, etc., and Services in Public Transportation were revised.
- In addition, in March 2024, the “Guidelines for Services for Public Transport Companies” were revised to incorporate updated guidelines from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, based on the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.
- The government is promoting barrier-free public transportation by providing subsidies and loans for the development of passenger facilities such as railway stations and accessible vehicles.

Barrier-free rate in passenger facilities

	FY2023									
	Total number of facilities	Elimination of steps		Guidance blocks for visually impaired persons		Guidance equipment		Total number of toilet facilities	Toilets for persons with disabilities	
Overall passenger facilities	—	—	94.0%	—	46.6%	—	77.3%	—	—	92.3%

Railway stations	3,546	3,331	93.9%	1,607	45.3%	2,735	77.1%	3,303	3,052	92.4%
Bus terminals	43	40	93.0%	37	86.0%	34	79.1%	36	26	72.2%
Passenger ship terminals	17	16	94.1%	14	82.4%	11	64.7%	17	16	94.1%
Aviation passenger terminals	43	43	100.0%	42	97.7%	41	95.3%	43	43	100.0%

Note 1: Calculated based on compliance with Standards for Facilitating Public Transportation Mobility, etc. under the Barrier-Free Act (Act on the Promotion of Smooth Mobility for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities, Etc.).

Note 2: "Total number of facilities" includes railway stations and bus terminals with an average of 3,000 or more users per day, and facilities that are categorized as life-related facilities with an average number of 2,000 to 3,000 users per day in priority development districts under the basic plan. Passenger ship terminals and aviation passenger terminals include facilities with an average of 2,000 or more users per day.

Note 3: For the "total number of toilet facilities," railway stations and bus terminals are counted if they meet the same user thresholds as in Note 2 and are equipped with toilets. Passenger ship terminals and air passenger terminals are counted if they have toilets and an average of 2,000 or more users per day.

Barrier-free rate of vehicles, etc.

		FY2023	
		Total number of vehicles, etc. (for UD taxis, total number of prefectures)	The number of vehicles that meet the standards for facilitating mobility, etc. (for UD taxis, the number of prefectures)
Railway vehicles		51,868	31,047 (59.9%)
Buses	Non-step buses	44,336	31,269 (70.5%)
	Lift-equipped buses, etc.	9,896	847 (8.6%)
	Airport access buses	170	70 (41.2%)
	Chartered buses	-	1,229
Welfare taxis		-	52,553
	UD taxis	47	4 (8.5%)
Passenger ships		657	380 (57.8%)
Airplanes		607	607 (100.0%)

Note 1: "Vehicles, etc. that comply with Mobility Facilitation Standards" are calculated based on the conformity of each vehicle with the Standards for Facilitating Public Transportation Mobility, etc.

Note 2: "Airport access buses" refer to the number and percentage of bus routes that include barrier-free vehicles among the total number of bus routes to facilities (designated airports (27 airports) that have no rail access and are among aviation passenger terminals with an average daily user count of 2,000 or more.

Note 3: "UD taxis" refer to the number and percentage of prefectures in which approximately 25% or more of all taxis in the prefecture are Universal Design (UD) taxis.

Barrier-Free Walking Spaces

- Under the Basic Policy for Promoting Smooth Mobility, etc., the government is promoting the development of audible traffic lights that notify the traffic signal status by sound, pedestrian-vehicle separation signals that help prevent accidents by separating pedestrian and vehicle crossing times, and escort zones that enhance the safety and convenience of visually impaired persons on crosswalks, etc.
- In January 2024, the Guidelines for Facilitating Mobility on Roads were revised to specify the installation methods and structures for guiding blocks for visually impaired persons before level crossings, as well as guiding signs within level crossings.



Guiding sign within a level crossing

Chapter 5. Building the Foundation for a Comfortable Living (2)

Review of Basic Disaster Prevention Measures

- In November 2024, the Report on the Disaster Response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake highlighted issues such as the need to install comfortable toilets and provide warm, nutritionally balanced meals. In response, and with reference to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere Standards), which serve as international benchmarks for aid to those affected by disasters and conflicts, three revised guidelines were published in December: Guidelines for Ensuring Satisfactory Living Conditions at Shelters, Guidelines for Evacuation Life Including Evacuation Shelter Operation (Checklist), and Guidelines for Securing and Managing Toilets at Shelters.

Main Support for Persons with Disabilities Following the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

- In addition to establishing welfare evacuation centers for persons with disabilities and others with special needs, affected municipalities were notified to assess the needs of general evacuation centers and to take necessary measures, such as setting up designated spaces for individuals requiring special support.
- In response to a request from Ishikawa Prefecture, Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Teams (DPAT)

adjusted medications as needed. Ishikawa Prefecture also established a “Mental Health Care Center” to provide mid- to long-term mental health support for disaster victims, offering telephone consultations and home visits for those in need of mental health care.

- Dispatch of care workers and acceptance of evacuees

- In the event of a shortage of care workers, personnel will be dispatched from other facilities in coordination with the national and prefectural governments.

- If user evacuation becomes necessary due to a disaster, the national and prefectural governments will coordinate to secure appropriate places for acceptance of the evacuees.

- A government subsidy program is being implemented to cover the costs of restoration work and the resumption of operations at support facilities for persons with disabilities.

- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare regularly provides information on its website regarding considerations for disabled children in evacuation centers. This includes ensuring access to information through sign language, Braille, and audio translation, as well as the free provision of stoma products.

Status of Disasters in Relation to Persons with Disabilities (as of March 11, 2025)

- Among facilities for persons with disabilities in Ishikawa Prefecture, 30 experienced water outages and 9 sustained building damage. Among facilities for children with disabilities in the same prefecture, 36 experienced water outages and 25 sustained building damage. Some facilities for persons with disabilities were evacuated; however, no casualties were reported.

Chapter 5. Building the Foundation for a Comfortable Living (3)

Initiatives Based on the Act on the Promotion of Measures Concerning Acquisition and Use of Information and Communication by Persons with Disabilities

- Based on the Act, a “forum for consultation” on promoting the development and dissemination of devices and other equipment that help persons with disabilities obtain information, as well as improving their quality, was held in May 2024. At the forum, relevant ministries and agencies reported on the status of implementation of policies from the previous fiscal year and exchanged opinions.

- * Participants included organizations for persons with disabilities, such as those representing persons with visual and hearing impairments, companies and related organizations involved in equipment development, the Cabinet Office, the Digital Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

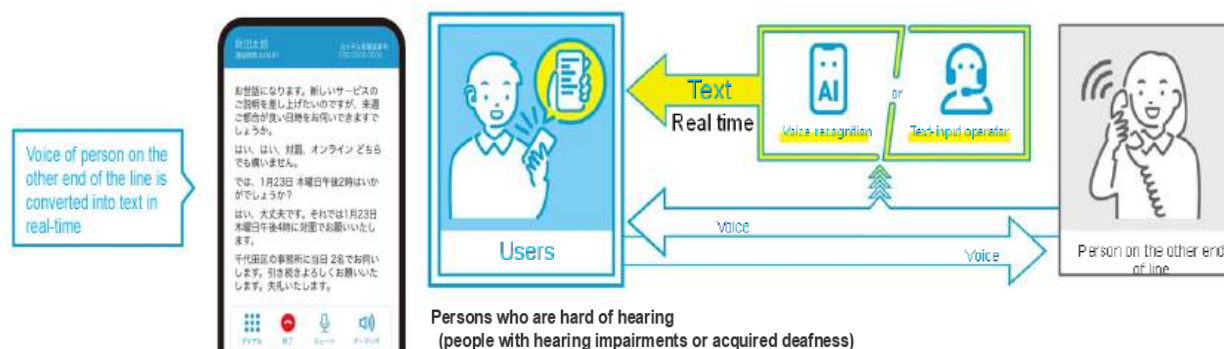
Initiatives based on the Act on Promotion of Improvement of the Reading Environment for the Visually Impaired, Etc.

- Based on the Act, a stakeholder council was held where opinions were gathered and discussions conducted with relevant parties. Following a period of public comments, the Basic Plan (Second Phase) was formulated in March 2025.

Launch of a Captioned Telephone Service “Yometeru” (TOPICS)

- Yometeru, a captioned telephone service was launched in January 2025 that enables people with hearing loss, including elderly individuals and those with hearing impairments, to use their smartphones to speak in their own voice to hearing people, while having the other person’s voice converted into text.

*Yometeru is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as a public infrastructure, similar to the current telecommunications relay service, and supports emergency calls (110, 118, 119). Callers are charged the same call rates as when calling an IP phone.



Chapter 6. Global Efforts

- In June 2024, at the 17th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the election of the members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held. Japan’s candidate, Mr. TAMON Hiroshi, a lawyer, was elected with 157 votes. (Term: January 2025 to December 2028.)



Hiroshi Tamon, a lawyer, was elected as a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Photo: Provided by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations)