

Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities
(Fourth)

(March 2018)

This program is to be submitted to the Diet in accordance with Paragraph 7, Article 11 of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 84 of 1970)

Table of Contents

Preamble

I. Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Fourth)

1. Position
2. Period
3. Composition
4. Relationship with CRPD
 - (1) Outline of CRPD
 - 1) Background
 - 2) Principal contents
 - 3) Efforts taken by Japan to date
 - (2) Basic concept of CRPD
 - 1) Definition of "disability"
 - 2) Equal, non-discriminatory and reasonable accommodation
 - 3) Mechanism of implementation
 - (3) Relationship with Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Fourth)
5. Relationship with 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

II. Basic Concept

1. Basic philosophy
2. Basic principles
3. Cross-sectional viewpoints common to all sectors
 - (1) Respect for philosophy of CRPD and securement of consistency
 - (2) Improvement of accessibility in all social scenes
 - 1) Adoption of viewpoints for improvement of accessibility in all social scenes
 - 2) Promotion of utilization of new technologies for improvement of accessibility
 - (3) Comprehensive and cross-sectional support oriented toward persons concerned
 - (4) Conscientious support paying heed to characteristic features of disabilities
 - (5) Conscientious support paying heed to the difficulties that women, children and elderly persons with disabilities have in common
 - (6) Promotion of effective measures through PDCA Cycle, etc.
 - 1) Plan
 - 2) Do

3) Check

4) Act

4. Smooth implementation of measures

(1) Securement of coordination and cooperation

(2) Promotion of activities related to facilitation of understanding and public relations/awareness-raising

1) Issues requiring implementation of primary measures such as promotion of Understanding

2) Issues requiring consideration in implementation of measures such as promotion of understanding

III. Basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities in each sector

1. Development of safe and secure living environments

[Related to Articles 20 and 21 of the Basic Act and Articles 9, 19, 20 and 28 of the CRPD]

(1) Securement of houses

(2) Development of mobility-supporting environments

(3) Promotion of facilities, products, etc. paying heed to accessibility

(4) Comprehensive urban development with care for persons with disabilities

2. Improvement of accessibility to information and upgrading of support for communication

[Related to Article 22 of the Basic Act and Articles of 9, 21 and 24 of the CRPD]

(1) Improvement of accessibility to information in telecommunications

(2) Upgrading supply of information

(3) Upgrading of support for communication

(4) Improvement of accessibility to government information

3. Promotion of disaster and crime prevention measures, etc.

[Related to Articles 22, 26 and 27 of the Basic Act and Articles 9 and 11 of the CRPD]

(1) Promotion of disaster prevention measures

(2) Promotion of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters

(3) Promotion of crime prevention measures

(4) Prevention of consumer trouble, and relief from damage

4. Elimination of discrimination, promotion of rights advocacy, and prevention of abuse

[Related to Article 23 of the Basic Act and Articles 10, 12, 14 and 16 of the CRPD]

- (1) Promotion of rights advocacy and prevention of abuse
- (2) Promotion of elimination of discrimination based on disabilities

5. Promotion of support for independent life and decision-making

[Related to Articles 14, 17 and 23 of the Basic Act and Articles 12, 19, 20, 23, 26 and 28 of the CRPD]

- (1) Promotion of support for decision-making
- (2) Establishment of counseling and support system
- (3) Enrichment of transition support to community life, home care services, etc.
- (4) Enrichment of support for children with disabilities
- (5) Improvement of quality of welfare services for persons with disabilities
- (6) Promotion and research and development of assistive products contributing to improvement of accessibility and fostering of assistance dogs for physically disabled people
- (7) Fostering and securement of human resources who support welfare for persons with disabilities

6. Promotion of health and medical care

[Related to Articles 14, 17, 23 and 31 of the Basic Act and Articles 12, 14, 19, 25 and 26 of the CRPD]

- (1) Appropriate provision of mental health and medical care
- (2) Enrichment of health and medical care
- (3) Promotion of research and development, etc. that contribute to improvement of health and medical care
- (4) Fostering and securement of human resources who support health and medical care
- (5) Promotion of health and medical care programs for intractable/rare diseases
- (6) Prevention and treatment of diseases, etc. that cause disabilities

7. Enrichment of consideration at government, etc.

[Related to Articles 28 and 29 of the Basic Act and Articles 13, 14 and 29 of the CRPD]

- (1) Consideration in judicial proceedings, etc.
- (2) Consideration in elections, etc.
- (3) Promotion of consideration and understanding of persons with disabilities at government and other organs
- (4) Consideration in connection with national certification

8. Support for employment, work, and economic independence

[Related to Articles 15, 18, 19, 23 and 24 of the Basic Act and Articles 19, 24, 26, 27 and 28 of the CRPD]

- (1) Comprehensive support for work

- (2) Support for economic independence
- (3) Promotion of employment of persons with disabilities
- (4) Support for work matching the characteristics of disabilities and securing of various employment opportunities
- (5) Upgrading of welfare-oriented work

9. Promotion of education

[Related to Articles of 16 and 17 of the Basic Act and Articles 24 and 30 of the CRPD]

- (1) Promotion of an inclusive education system
- (2) Development of educational environments
- (3) Promotion of support for students with disabilities in higher education
- (4) Enrichment of various lifelong learning activities

10. Promotion of cultural and art activities, sports, etc.

[Related to Article 25 of the Basic Act and Article 30 of the CRPD]

- (1) Development of social environments for enrichment of cultural and art activities as well as leisure and recreational activities
- (2) Development of environments for familiarization with sports and promotion of programs related to competitive athletic events, including the Paralympics

11. Promotion of cooperation and coordination in the international community

[Related to Article 30 of the Basic Act and Articles 31 and 32 of the CRPD]

- (1) Promotion of information transmission to the international community
- (2) Promotion of coordination with international frameworks
- (3) Promotion of international cooperation via official development assistance
- (4) Promotion of international exchanges among persons with disabilities

Closure: Long-term challenges for the realization of the society envisioned by the Basic Act and CRPD

Preamble

(Efforts taken by Japan to date)

The history of laws positioned as basic acts related to measures for persons with disabilities traces back the Basic Act for Countermeasures Concerning Mentally and Physically Disabled Persons (Act No. 84 of 1970) enacted in 1970. Aimed at promoting comprehensive countermeasures for intellectually and physically handicapped persons, that Act set basic issues and other matters for countermeasures concerning the welfare of persons with intellectual or physical disabilities and positioned people whose day-to-day and social lives are considerably restricted over a long period of time because of intellectual or physical disabilities as "persons with intellectual or physical disabilities."

The law was revised into the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "Basic Act") in 1993 to position people whose day-to-day and social lives are considerably restricted over a long period of time because of mental disabilities as "persons with disorders" in addition to the conventional category of persons with mental and physical disabilities. The purpose of the law was also changed to the promotion of the independence of persons with disabilities and their participation in activities in all sectors.

The subsequent revision of the law in 2004 added a new basic philosophy banning discrimination against persons with disabilities and so forth, and established the Central Council to Promote Measures for Persons with Disabilities. The 2011 revision of the law, made through studies involving participation by a larger number of persons with disabilities, newly introduced the concepts of the "social model" and "reasonable accommodation" adopted by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as part of the development of domestic legal systems to ratify the CRPD signed by Japan, and newly established the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities as an organ to monitor the implementation of the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities and make recommendations.

Based on the Basic Act, the "Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Third)" (hereinafter referred to "the old basic program") was adopted at a Cabinet meeting in September 2013 as predecessor to the "Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Fourth)" (hereinafter referred to as "the basic program"). The old basic program adopted "respect for decisions made by persons with disabilities themselves and support for their decision-making," "comprehensive support oriented toward persons concerned," "support taking the characteristics of disabilities into consideration," "improvement of accessibility" and "promotion of comprehensive and systematic programs" as cross-sectional viewpoints common to all sectors. It also set forth basic concepts and specific measures for each of 10 sectors, enabling the steady implementation of the measures in each sector in the lead up to the basic program under monitoring by the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities.

(Studies by Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities)

The Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities conducted proactive research and deliberations, starting in October 2016, to work out the basic program as the period of the old basic program was due to end in fiscal 2017.

In the sector of measures for persons with disabilities, there were major developments before the start of research and deliberations for the basic program, such the selection of Tokyo to host the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics (hereinafter referred to as the "2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics"), the ratification of the CRPD, and the enforcement of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Act No.65 of 2013) (hereinafter referred to as the "Discrimination Elimination Act"). While taking such developments into account in conducting research and deliberations, the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities discussed the major direction of measures for persons with disabilities and policy challenges to be addressed from comprehensive and panoramic perspectives in a bid to make the basic program more quantitatively extensive than the old basic program.

As a result, opinions of the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities for the Basic Programme for Persons with Disability (Fourth) were compiled through 11 meetings.

(Preparation of the basic program)

The government drafted the basic program, based on opinions of the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities, and adopted it at a Cabinet meeting in March 2018 following public opinions.

(The kind of society that should be sought through the basic program)

Article 1 of the Basic Act states that the law is aimed to promote, in a comprehensive and systematic manner, measures to support the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities in order to ensure that no citizens are segregated according to whether or not they have a disability as well as the realization of a society of coexistence with mutual respect for personality and individuality.

The basic program is expected to contribute not only to the realization of the purpose of the act but also to the achievement of the society mentioned below.

- A society of coexistence in which all citizens share an obvious sense of value that the weight of each person's life by no means changes depending on whether or not he or she has a disability.
- A society in which women, men, elderly people, youths, people who have experienced failure, persons with disabilities or intractable/rare diseases, and all other people can flourish at home, the workplace, and in all places, which will enable Japan as a mature society to demonstrate advanced programs to the world at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and serve as a model for the world.
- A society where measures for persons with disabilities lead to the safety of citizens and

advancement of the national economy.

In preparing measures based on the basic program and implementing them, it is important to always keep in mind such features of a society and constantly strive to realize them.

I. Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Fourth)

1. Position

The basic program has been formulated based on the provisions of Paragraph 1, Article 11 of the Basic Act in order to promote comprehensive and systematic measures to support the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities. It is positioned as the most basic program of the government's measures for persons with disabilities.

2. Period

The basic program covers five years from fiscal 2018.

3. Composition

The basic program consists of "I Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Fourth)," "II Basic Concept" and "III Basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities in each sector."

"II Basic concept" shows the basic philosophy and basic principle of the basic program as well as cross-sectional viewpoints common to all sectors and the approach for smooth promotion of measures.

"III Basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities in each sector" categorizes measures to support the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities into 11 sectors and shows the basic direction of measures to be implemented by the government during the period of the basic program.

4. Relationship with CRPD

(1) Outline of CRPD

1) Background

Prior to the adoption of the CRPD in June 2006, various efforts were made at the general assembly of the United Nations (UN) to promote and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities, such as the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Despite such efforts, however, the problem of persons with disabilities facing the abuse of human rights continued to be pointed out. To address the problem, the international community became strongly aware of the need for working out a new, legally binding document.

The U.N. therefore established a committee at its 56th general assembly in December 2001 to study and draft a comprehensive and integrated international convention to promote and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

The CRPD was adopted at the UN general assembly in December 2006 following eight meetings of the draft committee which started in 2002. With requirements for the

effectuation filled, the CRPD came into effect in May 2008.

2) Principal contents

Designed to ensure human rights and basic freedoms for persons with disabilities and promote the respect for their inherent dignity, the CRPD sets measures to realize their rights. It serves as the first international convention concerning persons with disabilities. Principal contents of the CRPD follow:

- General principles (Dignity, respect for self-reliance and independence, nondiscrimination, full and effective social participation and engagement, etc. for persons with disabilities)
- General obligations (Ensure and promote the complete realization of human rights and basic freedoms for all persons with disabilities free from any discrimination based on disability, including negligence in implementing reasonable accommodation)
- Measures to realize the rights of persons with disabilities (Stipulate measures to be taken by signatory countries for liberty rights for freedom, such as physical freedom, ban on torture, and freedom of expression, as well as education, labor and other social rights)
- Mechanism of implementing the CRPD (Establishment of domestic mechanism to implement the CRPD and monitor the implementation and examination of reports from signatory countries at the Committee on the Rights of Person with Disabilities)

3) Efforts taken by Japan to date

Japan signed the CRPD in September 2007, the year after it was adopted at the U.N. general assembly. Persons with disabilities and other people in Japan, meanwhile, voiced opinions calling for the development of laws before ratifying the CRPD.

Based on those opinions, Japan has made necessary domestic legal improvements, such as revising the Basic Act in August 2011, revising the Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act (Act. No. 123 of 2005) in June 2012 and renaming it the Act on Comprehensive Support for Daily and Social Lives of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities), enacting the Discrimination Elimination Act in June 2013 and revising the Act for Employment Promotion etc. of Persons with disabilities (Act No. 123 of 1960; hereinafter referred to as the "Employment Promotion Act") in June 2013.

Through these domestic legal developments, the conclusion of the CRPD was unanimously endorsed by the House of Representatives and by the House of Councillors in November and December 2013, respectively. The CRPD came into force for Japan in February 2014.

The CRPD requires each signatory country to submit "a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention on the

progress made in that regard" on a regular basis. Japan submitted a report covering the period from the entry into force till February 2016 to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the UN Secretary General in June 2016.

The government report reflected comments by the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities in charge of the "mechanism to monitor the implementation of the present Convention" as prescribed in Article 33 of the CRPD. In addition, public comments on the drafted report were collected. Furthermore, a document ("Summary of Arguments") compiling results from the monitoring of the implementation of the old basic program, conducted by the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities with an eye toward the submission of the government report was submitted as an annex.

(2) Basic concept of CRPD

1) Definition of "disability"

The conventional definition of "disability" reflects what is called the "medical model," and stems from only mental or physical disorders. In contrast, the CRPD adopts the concept of what is called the "social model," namely the restrictions that persons with disabilities encounter in day-to-day life or social life, which do not stem from mental or physical disorders alone but arise because persons with disabilities face various barriers in society.

2) Equal, non-discriminatory and reasonable accommodation

Article 1 of the CRPD stipulates that its purpose is "to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."

Article 2 defines "reasonable accommodation" as "necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden" to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities. In addition, Article 5 requires signatory countries to "prohibit all discrimination the basis of disability" and "take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided."

And Article 4 requires signatory countries to "closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities" in "decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities."

3) Mechanism of implementation

Article 33 of the CRPD stipulates that signatory countries "shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems" establish within themselves "a framework ... to monitor implementation of the present Convention." Japan has established the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities, which consists of people engaged

in programs related to the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities, and monitors the implementation of the CRPD through monitoring of the implementation of the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities. The "mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention" is a new prescription unknown to human rights conventions heretofore.

Article 35 states that each signatory country "shall submit to the Committee (on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard." When preparing such reports, signatory countries are "invited to consider doing so in an open and transparent process" and "to give due consideration" to involvement by persons with disabilities, according to the Article.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities consists of 18 experts chosen from signatory countries, examines reports from signatory countries, and makes proposals and recommendations. This mechanism subjects the implementation of the CRPD to international review.

(3) Relationship with Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities (Fourth)

As the basic program is the first basic program for persons with disabilities after Japan's ratification of the CRPD, the securement of its consistency with the CRPD is strongly required. The basic program therefore reflects the philosophy of the CRPD throughout itself and specifies corresponding relations between each sector referred to in "III Basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities in each sector" and each clause of the CRPD. Expectations, therefore, are that the implementation of efforts under the basic program is effectively and appropriately carried out by matching the implementation status of the basic program and that of the CRPD in Japan while the monitoring of the implementation of the CRPD by the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities through the monitoring of the basic program will be facilitated.

Appropriate collaborative efforts related to the basic program and the CRPD, such as handling recommendations, opinions, etc. by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the PDCA cycle,¹ a measure mentioned in the basic program.

5. Relationship with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

The 2020 Olympics and Paralympics will be held in Tokyo during the period of the basic program. In particular, the Paralympic Games,² for which people, whether they have

¹ PDCA is an acronym for Plan, Do, Check and Act.

² The Paralympics is the top sports event for athletes with disabilities, held immediately after the Olympics in the same venue. Other sports events for athletes with disabilities include the Deaflympics (See Note 46) and the Special Olympics (See Note 47)

disabilities or not, gather from all over the world to watch overwhelming performances shown by athletes with disabilities, is a golden opportunity to change the society toward a society of coexistence.

The word "Paralympics" was first used at the 1964 Olympics and Paralympics held in Tokyo. The Paralympic Games then was the first event attended by athletes with disabilities in addition to those using wheelchairs. A total of 378 Paralympians gathered for the event from 21 countries. As 53 athletes with disabilities also participated from Japan,³ the event also drew strong domestic attention. With the passage of roughly half a century, Tokyo will accept Paralympians from all over the world again as the world's first city to host the Paralympics twice.

As two main pillars to create a society of coexistence as a step toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, the government compiled the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan (adopted at the meeting of the Ministerial Council on Universal Design 2020 on February 20, 2017), a set of measures that should be implemented in the fields of barrier-free mind and town development. While various efforts, such as the promotion of measures that reflect persons with disabilities' viewpoints, are underway, their direction by no means differs from the basic program aimed to set a basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities the government should take for the sake of achieving a society of coexistence.

As the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will accept a large number of people, with and without disabilities, from all over the world, the basic program adopts the "improvement of accessibility in all social scenes," which is mentioned later, as a cross-sectional viewpoint and refers to the inclusion of viewpoints for improving accessibility in all social scenes in order to further promote measures to eliminate social barriers. Reflecting such a view on specific measures, furthermore, the program is set to extensively promote measures, including those to develop readily transferrable environments, such as barrier-free public transportation systems and town-building friendly to persons with disabilities.

The basic program has upgraded the "promotion of cultural and artistic activities, sports and others" from a sub-entry in the old basic program into a sector of measures and enriched measures with an eye on the Paralympics, such as training athletes in highly competitive sports for persons with disabilities. In addition, the basic program calls for the promotion of measures on a broad front to expand the base of sports for persons with disabilities, such as the development of environments enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy sports locally, and the fostering and utilization of athletes with disabilities.

As "issues requiring implementation of primary measures such as promotion of understanding," furthermore, the basic program sets forth the extensive dissemination of information on efforts to create a society of coexistence through the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics to brew national momentum and the society-wide promotion of the efforts

³ The Japanese delegation had 84 members (53 athletes and 31 officials).

by deepening the understanding of a "barrier-free mind."

Along with such viewpoints and various measures taken up by the basic program, it is highly necessary for Japan to show the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics to the world as an advanced event in a mature society and use it to mark a great step forward toward realizing a society of coexistence. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics should not be taken as a goal but it is important to build up more efforts after they end to realize a society of coexistence, utilizing the fruits gained from the events.

II. Basic concept

1. Basic philosophy

The CRPD is aimed at ensuring the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and promoting respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities. It sets measures to realize the rights of persons with disabilities.

As mentioned in Article 1 of the Basic Act, revised in line with the philosophy of the CRPD, measures for persons with disabilities need to be implemented to realize a society of coexistence in which no citizens are segregated according to whether or not they have a disability, and in which all citizens mutually respect their personalities and individuality on the basis of the philosophy that all citizens, regardless of whether or not they have a disability, should be respected as irreplaceable individuals equally enjoying fundamental human rights.

The basic program, which recognizes persons with disabilities as subjects who, while receiving necessary support, participate in all social activities based on their own decisions, helps persons with disabilities achieve self-fulfillment by exercising their ability to the best possible extent and sets the basic direction of measures the government should take for person with disabilities in order to remove social barriers restricting activities by persons with disabilities and limiting their social participation.

2. Basic principles

While recognizing persons with disabilities as subjects who, while receiving necessary support, participate in all social activities based on their own decisions, the government comprehensively and systematically implements measures to support the independence, social participation, etc. of persons with disabilities in order to realize the philosophy of the CRPD on the basis of the following principles of the Basic Act revised in line with that philosophy.

(Coexistence in the Local Community)

For realizing a society of coexistence, Article 3 of the Basic Act assumes that all persons with disabilities should be entitled to dignity as individuals enjoying fundamental human rights equal to persons without disabilities and possess the right to be guaranteed a life befitting of such dignity. In addition, the CRPD stipulates that its purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities. The basic program therefore needs to implement measures for persons with disabilities to appropriately ensure and expand the following opportunities, assuming that all persons with disabilities should be entitled to dignity as individuals enjoying fundamental human rights equal to persons without disabilities and possess the right to be guaranteed a life befitting of such dignity.

- All persons with disabilities are guaranteed the opportunity to participate in activities in society, economy, culture, and all other fields as constituent members of society.

- No person with disabilities is precluded from co-existing with other people in the local community while guaranteed the opportunity to choose where and with whom they live.
- All persons with disabilities are guaranteed the opportunity to choose their language (including sign language; the same applies hereinafter) and other means of communication for mutual understanding.
- Opportunities for them to choose the means of acquisition and use of information will be expanded.

(Prohibition of discrimination)

Article 4 of the Basic Act stipulates that no person may commit an act of discrimination or any other act which violates interests or rights against a person with a disability on the basis of the disability. It also requires the provision of reasonable accommodation. Article 5 of the CRPD also prohibits all discrimination on the basis of disability and calls for adoption of appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided. In addition, the Discrimination Elimination Act gives shape to such a purport. Under the circumstances, it is necessary to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities and acts which violate their interests and rights, and provide reasonable accommodation to eliminate social barriers against them.

Although Japan has already made legal preparations, such as the enactment and enforcement of the Discrimination Elimination Act, the implementation of the Act will be examined and reviewed, when deemed necessary, in accordance with its findings to ensure the effectiveness of the Act.

(International Cooperation)

Article 5 of the Basic Act stipulates that a society of coexistence must be realized under the framework of international cooperation. Article 32 of the CRPD also states the importance of international cooperation and its promotion. Given the fact, furthermore, that measures to support the independence of persons with disabilities and their social participation, etc. are closely related to efforts in the international community, the realization of a society of coexistence needs to be pursued under the framework of international cooperation.

While Japan has kept deepening its cooperation with the international framework through such means as the ratification of the CRPD and submission of government reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it needs to further promote its tie-up of such a kind in order to embody the philosophy of international cooperation.

3. Cross-sectional viewpoints common to all sectors

(1) Respect for the Philosophy of CRPD and securement of consistency

To work out and implement measures, systems, projects, etc. for persons with

disabilities, it is important to respect the philosophy of the CRPD and ensure their consistency with the CRPD.

To promote "inclusion"⁴ under the principle of deciding "nothing about us without us," it is necessary to recognize persons with disabilities as subjects, rather than objects, who, while receiving necessary support, participate in society based on their own decisions. In studying and assessing measures for persons with disabilities, participation by persons with disabilities in the decision-making process is necessary so as to reflect their viewpoints on the measures. In such a case, it should be noted that social participation by persons with disabilities leads to their independence.

From the viewpoint of promoting participation by persons with disabilities in the decision-making process, due heed should be paid to the selection of persons with disabilities in choosing members of committees and other organs in the Diet.⁵ In addition, efforts are made to increase women's participation in accordance with the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (adopted by the Cabinet on December 25, 2015). For committee members with disabilities, an appropriate guarantee of information and other reasonable accommodations will be provided in a manner matching the characteristics of their disabilities.⁶

From the viewpoint of respecting the decisions that persons with disabilities make themselves, the provision of opportunities for persons with disabilities to choose their language and other means of communication will be promoted together with support for decision-making through advice and other means to ensure that persons with disabilities can make appropriate decisions themselves and express their intentions.

(2) Improvement of accessibility in all social scenes

1) Adoption of viewpoints for improvement of accessibility in all social scenes

Article 2 of the Basic Act, revised in line with what is called the "social model" and adopted by the CRPD, defines persons with disabilities as persons with disabilities "who are in a state of facing substantial limitations in their continuous day-to-day life or social life because of a disability or a social barrier." The Article thus notes that difficulties and limitations encountered by persons with disabilities result from both their own disabilities and social factors.

In light of these viewpoints, it is necessary to substantiate social participation by persons with disabilities, improve their abilities, regardless of their disabilities, and enable them to live at ease while exercising their abilities to the maximum extent possible by eliminating things, systems, customary practices, and concepts limiting

⁴ The Japanese translation for Article 3 (c) of the CRPD means "encompassing."

⁵ Including temporary, special, and expert members

⁶ Providing information via alternative means for persons having difficulty in obtaining information because of their disabilities

activities by persons with disabilities and restricting their social participation. To this end, it is important to establish environments for improving the accessibility of persons with disabilities.⁷ To promote various efforts for elimination of social barriers more forcibly, viewpoints for improving accessibility in all social scenes will be incorporated.

As discrimination on the basis of disability exerts grave adverse effects on independence and social participation by persons with disabilities, efforts to eliminate it in all social scenes are necessary. Therefore, based on the Discrimination Elimination Act and the Employment Promotion Act, efforts to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities will be promoted under broad understanding by business operators, business owners and the general public while facilitating cooperation with efforts by various entities, such as local governments and organizations of persons with disabilities.

From the viewpoint of improving accessibility in all social scenes and promoting a barrier-free mind, public relations and awareness-raising activities will be actively promoted while supporting efforts by companies, civic groups, and other entities.

On the occasion of disclosing information on measures for persons with disabilities, including the time of convening council and other meetings, and soliciting public comments on orders, plans and other matters related to measures for persons with disabilities, efforts will be made to improve accessibility, such as guaranteeing appropriate information giving heed to the characteristics of disabilities.

2) Promotion of utilization of new technologies for improvement of accessibility

Telecommunications technology (ICT) is finding its way into all scenes in society. While equipment and services using such new technology may become new social barriers, the use of ITC and other new technologies, with accessibility in mind, will be studied in various cases, such as support for the transport of persons with disabilities and provision of information to them, from the viewpoint of eliminating social barriers because of their feature of high affinity with accessibility. The introduction of ITC and other new technologies will be actively promoted if they are found usable.

As the creation of markets for advanced technologies—including those that help improve accessibility, developed by small and midsize enterprises as well as venture businesses—is a major challenge, the government needs to upgrade measures from the standpoint of users to generate initial demand as a pump-priming step. Therefore, in compliance with the "Science and Technology Basic Plan" adopted by the Cabinet on January 22, 2016, the government will implement necessary measures, such as further promoting the use of technology-focused bidding systems like general evaluation

⁷ Making access to facilities and equipment, services, information, systems, etc. easy

awarding, in procuring technology-based products in the public sector, including new technologies that contribute to the improvement of accessibility, on the assumption of securing transparency and fairness, in order to increase bidding opportunities for small and midsize enterprises and venture businesses.

To further promote the government procurement of accessibility-oriented equipment and services, technological specifications will be set for procurement⁸ subject to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement and other agreements,⁹ in compliance with those agreements, and, when appropriate, in compliance with any international standards concerning accessibility.¹⁰

In addition, it will be noted that cases requiring decisions as society with regard to ethical and legal agendas on the social application of science and technology, as seen in cases like gene therapy and regenerative medicine are increasing.

(3) Comprehensive and cross-sectional support oriented toward persons concerned

Based on the CRPD's philosophy of pursuing the dignity, autonomy, and independence of persons with disabilities, measures will be comprehensively and continuously implemented under organized cooperation in education, culture and art, sports, welfare, medical care, employment and other fields, to enable persons with disabilities to receive appropriate support at each life stage.

Based on the definition of persons with disabilities in Article 2 of the Basic Act, measures for persons with disabilities should be implemented with an eye toward difficulties that persons with disabilities face in day-to-day life and social life. Support for persons with disabilities should be provided not only for addressing difficulties they encounter from time to time but also from the viewpoint of their independence and social participation. The importance of support for people concerned, including families of persons with disabilities, is also taken into consideration.

Concerning problems straddling multiple sectors, it is necessary for organs, institutions and other entities concerned to respond comprehensively and cross-sectionally through cooperation without being bound by the framework of each sector.

(4) Conscientious support paying heed to the characteristic features of disabilities

In compliance with the philosophy of the CRPD respecting the dignity of each person

⁸ Procurement and government procurement subjected by the Protocol on Government Procurement (hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol") and the Protocol on Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement (hereinafter referred to as the "Amended Protocol") and by the Guidelines on Government Procurement Procedures (agreed upon by government ministries and agencies concerned on March 31, 2014, and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines")

⁹ Meaning the Protocol, the Amended Protocol and the Guidelines

¹⁰ Including domestic guidelines matching international standards including the JISZ8071 "Guide for addressing accessibility in standards"

with disabilities, measures for them will be worked out and implemented with an eye on the need for individualistic support for them based on the characteristic features of their disabilities, conditions of their disabilities, their living conditions, etc. In this approach, features inherent to disabilities and barely outwardly visible should be taken into consideration. It should be noted that disabilities, whose conditions change, tend to show diverse symptoms, often making it difficult to accurately understand the degree of disability.

For developmental disabilities, intractable/rare diseases, higher brain dysfunction,¹¹ visual and hearing disabilities, severe motor and intellectual disabilities, and other multiple disabilities, measures need to be upgraded along with information and awareness-raising activities to further deepen the society-wide understanding of them.

In particular, it is important to comprehensively promote measures for developmental disabilities in such areas as society-wide understanding, family support, welfare and labor, education and medical care.

(5) Conscientious support paying heed to the difficulties that women, children and elderly persons with disabilities have in common

Based on Article 6 and Article 7 of the CRPD, measures for persons with disabilities need to be worked out and implemented, recognizing that attentive consideration for persons with multiple difficulties, including women with disabilities, is required.

Women with disabilities need various support in accordance with the types of disabilities. There also are cases that place them in multiple difficulties because of their gender. It is important to work out and implement measures for person with disabilities by taking such issues into account.

It also should be noted that children with disabilities need support different from support for adults with disabilities.

Measures for elderly persons with disabilities need to be worked out and implemented in consistency with measures according to age while recognizing the philosophy of the CRPD.

(6) Promotion of effective measures through the PDCA Cycle, etc.

To realize "evidence-based policy making" in compliance with Article 31 and Article 33 of the CRPD, the following measures will be taken to collect necessary data and upgrade statistics along with the establishment and steady implementation of the PDCA cycle of measures for persons with disabilities. In addition, measures will be continuously reviewed through the cycle.

¹¹ A condition in which cognitive functions, such memory, attention, performance, and social activities, are disabled due to aftereffects of brain damage caused by a traffic accident or disease

1) Plan

To appropriately recognize the reality of persons with disabilities and the social environment surrounding them from the viewpoint of realizing "evidence-based policy making," it is important to collect necessary data and upgrade statistics while paying heed to the gender, age, types of disabilities, etc. of persons with disabilities.

Government ministries which are primarily responsible for measures for persons with disabilities in each field study ways to appropriately collect and assess information and data concerning the situation of disabilities and measures for persons with disabilities and strive to plan more effective measures by setting specific targets for achievement.

Targets for achievement set to steadily promote the basis program in each sector represent levels of achievement pursued by the government as a whole by comprehensively implementing specific measures in each sector along with measures in other sectors. Achievement targets, when local governments as well as civic organizations and other non-governmental entities are directly involved in undertaking efforts related to achievement targets, are positioned as targeted levels of achievement when the government seek action from such institutions and groups.

2) Do

Government ministries will try to systematically carry out efforts based on the basic program while listening to people concerned such as persons with disabilities and their families. To appropriately implement measures for persons with disabilities, they collect information and data concerning the conditions of persons with disabilities through surveys of the reality of persons with disabilities, etc. and analyze and upgrade the information while paying heed to the gender, age, types of disability and so forth.

From the viewpoint of effectively and efficiently promoting measures, a comprehensive implementation in consistency with measures for the aged, measures for medical care, measures for children and child-rearing, measures for gender equality and other measures, plans and other matters related to measures for persons with disabilities will be pursued.

3) Check

The assessment of measures for persons with disabilities needs to reflect the viewpoints of persons with disabilities on measures through their participation the decision-making process. It is also important to continuously monitor the implementation of efforts related to the promotion of measures for persons with disabilities.

Under these frames of mind, government ministries will check and assess the implementation of efforts and their effects based on numerical figures and other information.

In addition, the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities will assess and monitor the implementation of the basic program for the viewpoint of the entire government based on the Basic Act.

4) Act

Government ministries will uninterruptedly review efforts based on the promotion of measures for persons with disabilities and the assessment and results of their effects. When deemed necessary, they will conduct studies including related legal preparations.

The Commission on Policy for Persons with disabilities will assess and monitor the implementation of the basic program from the viewpoint of the entire government on the basis of the Basic Act and, when necessary, make recommendations to the Prime Minister on the implementation of the basic program and other ministers concerned through the Prime Minister. From its status as "a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the basic program," the commission will monitor the implementation of the CRPD through the monitoring of the basic program. It will also seek to upgrade the functions of its secretariat for the smooth management of the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities.

When amendments to the basic program become necessary for changes in the social situation and other reasons or when amendments to the basic program become necessary due to the promotion and assessment of the basic program, the government will flexibly change the basis program even during its period.

Regarding an achievement target which reaches its deadline during the period of the program, necessary countermeasures will be taken, including the establishment of a new achievement target while paying heed to the securement of continuity in light of a society that should be realized through the basic program and based on the attainment of the target in question.

Knowledge gained through surveys, etc. of the reality of persons with disabilities, will be utilized for assessing progress in the basic program and a review of efforts based on the assessment.

4. Smooth implementation of measures

(1) Securement of coordination and cooperation

Government ministries will seek close coordination and cooperation with each other to promote government measures for persons with disabilities in an integrated manner and secure comprehensive plans and cross-sectional adjustments.

While the basic program sets the basic direction of government measures for persons with disabilities, the further reinforcement of coordination and cooperation with local governments is indispensable for the effective implementation of efforts, such as promoting the transfer of persons with disabilities from one region to another and

enabling them to receive appropriate support matching regional realities when and where they need. To this end, the further reinforcement of coordination and cooperation with local governments under an appropriate division of roles will be pursued and knowledge of local governments, which have introduced superior and advanced efforts and models, will be utilized and promoted.

To promote society-wide efforts for independence and social participation by persons with disabilities, the government will seek cooperation from groups of persons with disabilities, professional organizations of experts, companies, business organizations, and others in its various activities.

While efforts will also be made for cooperation with international organs and foreign governments, the comprehensive and efficient implementation of sustainable development goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs") will be promoted with enough heed paid to the implementation of the CRPD in Japan under close and mutual collaboration between related administrative organs.

The Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities will study sharing of information with other councils, etc. when deemed necessary.

(2) Promotion of activities related to facilitation of understanding and public relations/awareness-raising

1) Issues requiring implementation of primary measures such as promotion of understanding

To promote popular understanding that an obvious sense of value that the "weight of each person's life by no means changes whether or not he or she has a disability" is shared by all citizens in society and that it will become a regular life in which people with and without disabilities mutually support and live in society without being bound by whether or not they have disabilities. To promote publicity and awareness raising for the philosophy of a "coexistent society" pursued to be established through the implementation of the basic program and the idea of the "social model."

To extensively disseminate information on the feature of a "coexistent society" pursued to be established through the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in order to brew national momentum for the Paralympics Games and further promote the understanding of meaning of measures for persons with disabilities.

To deepen, furthermore, the national understanding of the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities have an independent day-to-day life and social life, and to promote society-wide efforts for a "barrier-free mind" under which people with a variety of physical and mental characteristics communicate with each other to deepen mutual understanding and support each other.

For intellectual disabilities, mental disabilities, developmental disabilities, intractable/rare diseases, higher brain dysfunctions, visual and hearing disabilities, severe motor and intellectual disabilities and other multiple disabilities, as well as

disabilities requiring more national understanding and disabilities barely outwardly visible, efforts will be made to facilitate understanding concerning consideration, etc. needed for the characteristics of the disabilities.

Efforts will be made to deepen public understanding of braille, sign language, tactile walking surface indicators for visually impaired people, assistance dogs for physically disabled persons,¹² and parking spaces for persons with disabilities, and to publicize consideration and other needs for smooth utilization of those things, and to provide information on marks and other signs prepared by organizations of persons with disabilities and other concerns for awareness raising and publicity in cooperation with companies concerned and promote the popularization and understanding of them.

Efforts will be made to deepen understanding of voluntary activities by children, students, local volunteers etc., support the activities and promote understanding of and cooperation in social contribution activities by companies and others.

2) Issues requiring consideration in implementation of measures such as promotion of understanding

As it is important to go ahead with measures for persons with disabilities while winning widespread national understanding, extensive publicity and awareness-raising activities will be systematically and effectively conducted in cooperation with not only the government but also companies, civilian organizations, the media, and so forth. In such activities, the importance of appealing to not only persons with disabilities but also others will be taken into account along with efforts to effectively provide information and reflect national opinions.

To promote understanding of persons with disabilities in the local community, constant exchanges between welfare facilities, educational organs, etc. and local residents and others will be expanded. In addition, environments for activities to promote measures for persons with disabilities by nonprofit organizations, volunteer groups, and other entities including persons with disabilities will be improved.

Surveys and studies of programs both at home and abroad, and the introduction of advanced cases, etc. will be promoted, noting that the unification of translated words improves understandability and comparison.

Awareness-raising activities will be promoted especially through participation by general citizens, volunteer groups, organizations of persons with disabilities and many others in events during the Week of Persons with Disabilities set in the Basic Act.¹³

Activities to deepen mutual understanding between infants and elementary and other school children with disabilities and those without will be further promoted along with education to deepen understanding and knowledge of disabilities, such as special

¹² Seeing-eye dogs, service dogs, and hearing-ear dogs

¹³ One week from December 3 to 9 every year

activities at elementary and junior high schools, etc.

III. Basic direction of measures for persons with disabilities in each sector

1. Development of safe and secure living environments

[Basic Concept]

To achieve living environments enabling persons with disabilities to live a safe and secure life in the local community, social barriers against persons with disabilities in living environments will be removed and accessibility will be improved through the promotion of comprehensive measures, such as the development of dwelling environments enabling persons with disabilities to live a safe and secure life, development of environments for easy mobility by persons with disabilities, and promotion and spread of facilities, etc. paying heed to accessibility and town-making friendly to persons with disabilities.

(1) Securement of houses

- The supply of public rental housing for persons with disabilities will be promoted by making new public housing barrier-free in principle and promoting the barrier-free refurbishment of existing public housing. Local governments will be notified and given information so that welfare and housing bureaus will jointly promote thoughtful measures, such as preferential treatment of persons with disabilities in occupancy, permission for unaccompanied occupancy, and exemption from the requirement to have guarantors. [1-(1)-1]
- Due to establishing the New Housing Safety Net Policy which contains registration systems for rental housing that is intended for the promotion of smooth move-in for such persons requiring housing support, such as disabilities, by using vacant rooms of private rental housing and vacant houses, the smooth move-in for those to private rental housing will be promoted by providing supports related to housing renovation, reduction of burden on residents, and the housing support activities of the Housing Support Council. [1-(1)-2]
- Along with promoting barrier-free refurbishments, etc. by persons with disabilities and tenants of private rental dwelling units, tools used in day-to-day life will be supplied and lent, and support for home refurbishments to install them will be provided in order to make day-to-day life convenient to persons with disabilities. [1-(1)-3]
- The establishment of group homes for persons with disabilities which serve as dwelling units in the local community where tenants live together while receiving nursing care, advice, support, etc. will be promoted and institutional improvements for persons with severe disabilities will be achieved. In addition, the establishment of local life support

centers and places as support bases for persons with disabilities living in the local community will be promoted. Combined with such measures, the development of local infrastructures, including councils of people involved in health, medical and welfare services and support for securement of dwelling units, will be promoted to create a comprehensive local care system applicable to mental disabilities as well¹⁴ so that persons with mental disabilities and their families can live in their own way as members of the local community and with a sense of security. [1-(1)-4]

- To enable persons with disabilities to easily use welfare services for persons with disabilities, the establishment of cooperation between them and local fire companies and residents in times of natural disasters will be promoted. In addition, the fire protection and security system will be reinforced by partially subsidizing refurbishments and installations of fire-extinguishing equipment in compliance with standards set under the Building Standards Act (Act No. 201 of 1950) and the Fire Service Act (Act No. 186 of 1948). [1-(1)-5]

(2) Development of mobility-supporting environments

- Barrier-free public transport facilities will be promoted by upgrading human efforts in addition to the further promotion of such measures as elimination of differences in levels at train stations and other passenger facilities, installation of platform gates and others for fall prevention and development of train cars friendly to passengers with disabilities. [1-(2)-1]
- Upgrade ways of displaying information will be promoted, paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities at passenger facilities and inside vehicles of public transportation systems. [1-(2)-2]
- Education, training and other programs will be promoted to have public transportation operators and others adopt appropriate measures for persons with disabilities. [1-(2)-3]
- Special transport services, utilizing welfare taxis and other services will be promoted, by utilizing support systems, etc. to individually provide means of transportation to persons with disabilities. [1-(2)-4]
- Recognizing that providing means of transportation and addressing the shortage of drivers in depopulated rural areas are urgent tasks, we are committed to conducting research and development programs and providing services in connection with Traffic

¹⁴ Dwelling units including environmental improvements for reception of medical care (the same as in 5-(3)-8)

Signal Prediction Systems (TSPS), Driving Safety Support Systems (DSSS), ETC 2.0, and other Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) that are designed to provide safe and comfortable transportation for the aged persons, persons with disabilities, and others, while developing advanced self-driving systems to provide unmanned autonomous driving services for such people in rural areas. [1-(2)-5]

(3) Promotion of facilities, products, etc. paying heed to accessibility

- The Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons (Act No. 91 of 2006; hereinafter referred to as the "Barrier-Free Act") makes it obligatory to apply the barrier-free standard to certain structures used by many and unspecified people, especially aged people and persons with disabilities, at the time of new construction ,etc. in order to promote barrier-free efforts. In addition, local governments facilitate efforts in line with actual local conditions, such as adding structures subject to the obligation and tightening the floor area requirements, in accordance with regulations based on the law. [1-(3)-1]
- Construction of government buildings with counter services will be promoted adopting the Preferred Barrier-free Standard for Facilities and Public Transportation, based on the Barrier-Free Act. [1-(3)-2]
- Improvement of urban parks will be promoted for safe and secure use by such means as eliminating differences in levels at gates and on paths inside and installing bathrooms usable by the aged and persons with disabilities in line with standards based on the Barrier-Free Act and through the use of support systems. [1-(3)-3]
- To let everyone enjoy the attractive features of rivers and familiar natural spaces, riverside improvements will be promoted in an integrated manner with town-building. [1-(3)-4]
- In designing products, etc. for use in day-to-day life based on the concept of Universal Design,¹⁵ the standardization of designs, etc. in consideration of use by elderly and people with disabilities will be promoted if there are needs for the spread of products, facilities, etc., paying heed to use by people with disabilities. [1-(3)-5]

(4) Comprehensive urban development with care for persons with disabilities

- Necessary amendments will be made to the Barrier-Free Act and related measures, paying heed to three viewpoints: the promotion of social participation by the aged,

¹⁵ Concept of designing facilities, products, etc. that can be readily used by all people.

persons with disabilities, and others; reinforcement of collaboration between regions for the creation of barrier-free town planning; and efforts combining structural and non-structural measures. [1-(4)-1]

- Paying heed to the barrier-free concept, urban development that will enable persons with disabilities to live at ease and comfortably will be promoted through such means as promotion of appropriate and systematic construction of welfare and medical facilities in urban zones, promotion of development in combination with parks and other facilities, and consolidation of living bases, etc. [1-(4)-2]
- We will improve major essential roads for everyday life that connect main transportation facilities in the priority development districts designated by municipalities based on the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities (also known as Barrier-Free Act)*, develop wider sidewalks, improve sidewalks that have level differences, excessive slopes and gradients, remove utility poles, and install warning tile blocks for the visually impaired while making sure that these activities are in line with public transportation improvement programs aiming for barrier-free systems. [1-(4)-3]
- To make main facilities in national parks and quasi-national parks, such as visitor centers, roads and public restrooms, barrier-free. [1-(4)-4]
- For roads that comprise major community-related pathways within important development districts designated by municipal governments based on the Barrier-Free Act, the improvement of traffic facilities, such as traffic signals equipped with audible annunciators which tell the status of traffic lights by sound, pedestrian-vehicle separated traffic signals that separate the time during which pedestrians pass from the time that vehicles pass, barrier-free traffic signals such as PICS (Pedestrian Information and Communication Systems) where the time for green lights for pedestrians is extended, and road markers that are easy to see and understand will be promoted. [1-(4)-5]
- LED (light emitting diodes) development of signal lights and high-intensity/large road markers will be encouraged so that persons with disabilities can drive automobiles safely and with ease of mind. [1-(4)-6]
- In order to ensure safe passage by pedestrians on community roads in urban areas, etc., speed control and control/elimination of through traffic will be encouraged by setting zones where measures, such as regulation of zones with a maximum speed of 30km/h, installation and expansion of side strips, and installation of physical devices are effectively combined.[1-(4)-7]

- The parking permit system, introduced by many local governments to ensure the appropriate use of parking lots for persons with disabilities, etc., will be improved through sharing of information on good examples. Local governments, which have yet to introduce the system, will be encouraged to adopt it through the provision of information on its merits in order to realize its widespread use. [1-(4)-8]

- The establishment of environments in which private businesses and others can offer various services, will be promoted through the development and utilization of space information infrastructures such as seamless electronic maps both inside and outside and indoor positioning environments, etc. and open datarization of data, etc.¹⁶ to contribute to mobilization in order to promote the use of ICT-based support for pedestrians' movement for the sake of creating a universal society where all people, including the aged and persons with disabilities, can freely engage in activities without feeling stressed both at home and outside. [1-(4)-9]

- In addition to the above, implement specific measures positioned Universal Design 2020 Action Plan. [1-(4)-10]

¹⁶ Format of data suitable for machine reading and disclosed data under rules enabling secondary use made possible without involving much manpower.

2. Improvement of accessibility to information and upgrading of support for communication

[Basic concept]

To enable persons with disabilities to gain access to necessary information, various programs, such as the planning, development and supply of telecommunications equipment and services, paying heed to persons with disabilities, and the spread of broadcasting and publications for easy use by persons with disabilities, will be implemented to improve accessibility to information. In addition, support for communication by persons with disabilities will be upgraded through such means as the development and securement of people who support their communication, promotion of smooth use of services and development and supply of support equipment, in order to enable them to smoothly express their intention and communicate.

(1) Improvement of accessibility to information in telecommunications

- Promote the planning, development, and supply of telecommunications equipment and services, paying heed to persons with disabilities, in order to secure, improve and spread accessibility to information in the use of telecommunications equipment and services, etc. by persons with disabilities. [2-(1)-1]
- Appropriate standardization to secure and improve accessibility to information,¹⁷ recognizing research and development, needs, advances in ICT, etc. will be advanced and international standards proposed when necessary. The procurement of telecommunications equipment, etc. by government ministries and agencies will be implemented in compliance with laws based on or paying heed to international standards and the Japanese Industrial Standards.¹⁸ In particular, procurement, etc., subject to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement,¹⁹ will set technological specifications stipulated by the WTO Government Procurement Agreement,²⁰ and based on any international standards concerning accessibility when appropriate.²¹ [2-(1)-2]
- The research and development of telecommunications equipment and systems will be promoted, paying heed to persons with disabilities at national research institutes and other organizations. [2-(1)-3]

¹⁷ Assuming Japanese Industrial Standards, etc.

¹⁸ Telecommunications equipment including services and systems related to web contents (posted information)

¹⁹ Regarding procurement, see Note 8

²⁰ See Note 9

²¹ Regarding international standards, see Note 10

- Opportunities for the use and utilization of ICT by persons with disabilities will be increased through such means as establishing IT support centers to give advice on IT, etc. to persons with disabilities and promoting the fostering and dispatch of computer volunteers enabling persons with disabilities to use computers and other equipment. [2-(1)-4]
- A telephone relay service system enabling persons with a hearing impairment to make calls themselves will be established. [2-(1)-5]

(2) Upgrading supply of information

- The use of broadcasting services by persons with disabilities will be facilitated through the expansion of captioned broadcasting,²² explanatory broadcasting, sign-language broadcasting, etc., made possible by subsidies for broadcasters' production cost based on the Act Concerning Promotion of Project for Facilitation of Use of Telecommunications by People with Disabilities Contributing to Improved Convenience of People with Disabilities (Act No. 54 of 1993) and the implementation and reinforcement of efforts under the Guidelines for Accessibility to Information in the Field of Broadcasting. [2-(2)-1]
- The development of information supply facilities for persons with a hearing impairment, which engage in such services as producing libraries of videos with captions (or sign language) and lending them, the fostering and dispatch of sign-language interpreters and precise writers, and the offering of advice for the sake of persons with a hearing impairment will be promoted, while recognizing changes in needs resulting from advances in ICT. [2-(2)-2]
- The supply of services and the research and development of technologies by private businesses will be facilitated through subsidies, etc. provided under the Act Concerning Promotion of Project for Facilitation of Use of Telecommunications by People with Disabilities Contributing to Improved Convenience of People with Disabilities and improve access to telecommunication and broadcasting services, such as televisions and telephones, which cannot be readily used because of disabilities. [2-(2)-3]
- Electronic publishing is expected to increase the use of publications by people who face difficulties in reading paper-based publications because of visual impairments, upper limb disabilities, learning disabilities, etc. Efforts, therefore, will be promoted to realize

²² Including advertiser-funded programs

the widespread availability of electronic publications paying heed to accessibility through the promotion of new technological development and awareness activities targeting electronic bookstores, electronic libraries, publishers and other businesses concerned. While such efforts will be further promoted, the use of electronic publications in education will be increased. [2-(2)-4]

- Studies on low-postage approved periodicals (third class mail) for persons with disabilities will continue from the viewpoint of social participation by persons with disabilities while noting the reality of the service. [2-(2)-5]

(3) Upgrading of support for communication

- For people who have difficulties in communication due to hearing, language function, phonetic function, visual, aphasic, intellectual and development disabilities, or higher brain dysfunctions, severe physical and other disabilities and intractable/rare diseases, support will be provided through the dispatch, installation, etc. of sign-language interpreters and precise writers, and of interpreters and assistants for persons with visual and hearing disabilities along with support in the form of translation into braille, writing and reading on their behalf, transliteration, etc. In addition, support for communication will be upgraded through the implementation of fostering, training, etc. of sign-language interpreters and precise writers, and of interpreters and assistants for persons with visual and hearing disabilities in order to nurture and secure such human resources. [2-(3)-1]
- Devices for day-to-day life will be supplied or lent to persons with disabilities in need of support equipment for information and communication and hands will be joined with them in developing support equipment based on their needs. [2-(3)-2]
- The popularization and understanding of pictorial symbols designed to help people with communicative difficulties to be appropriately understood will be promoted. [2-(3)-3]

(4) Improvement of accessibility to government information

- Government ministries and agencies will take various characteristics of disabilities into consideration when providing information on measures and facilities for persons with disabilities and during an emergency in a manner readily understandable to persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and mental disabilities, such as appropriate use of captioned and oral information. [2-(4)-1]
- Government ministries and agencies will strive to enrich and expand the electronic supply of administrative information in a manner friendly to all users, including persons with disabilities. In providing information via websites and other means, necessary

measures will be taken to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines,²³ such as the adoption of specifications that make all functionality available from a keyboard and addition of captions or phonetic explanations to videos. In addition, efforts will be made to improve web accessibility at local governments and other public entities [2-(4)-2]

- For providing administrative information, government ministries and agencies will study the use and utilization of ICT and other new technologies paying heed to accessibility and will strive to provide information, taking accessibility into consideration, through such means as active introduction of those available for use and utilization. [2-(4)-3]
- To appropriately transfer information to persons with disabilities when a disaster occurs or is feared to occur, the establishment of information transmission systems paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities will be promoted in cooperation with private business operators, fire-fighting organs, prefectural police departments, etc. [2-(4)-4]
- Efforts will be made to upgrade the supply of information for elections, etc., in accordance with the characteristics of disabilities, through such means as adoption of sign-language interpreters and addition of captions in campaign broadcasting, use of braille, sound, and enlarged text or the supply of information on candidates via the Internet, while taking advances in ICT, etc. into account. [2-(4)-5]

²³ A procedure manual to support efforts by public entities to maintain and improve web content accessibility (use of information and functionality, provided via websites, etc., by all people).

3. Promotion of disaster and crime prevention measures, etc.

[Basic Concept]

The construction of disaster-resistant areas will be promoted, based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,²⁴ to enable persons with disabilities to live safely and at ease in the local community. Programs for disaster prevention and reconstruction will also be promoted for assurance of appropriate information paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities, support evacuation, secure shelters, including welfare shelters (welfare evacuation space),²⁵ and emergency temporary houses, continuation of welfare and medical services, etc. in times of disaster. To protect persons with disabilities from crime and consumer fraud, programs will be promoted to prevent crime and consumer trouble.

(1) Promotion of disaster prevention measures

- The preparation of regional disaster prevent plans and implementation of disaster drills and other programs will be promoted through participation by persons with disabilities, welfare-related people, and others, and in cooperation with disaster prevention bureaus and welfare bureaus to promote the creation of disaster-resistant areas. [3-(1)-1]
- A combination of physical and non-physical measures focused on the prevention of damage from landslides, such as the creation of sand arrestation barriers and other facilities,²⁶ and specification of dangerous spots that are at risk of damage from landslides in areas where facilities for persons with disabilities, who find it difficult to flee for refuge themselves and so need special consideration, are located will be promoted. [3-(1)-2]
- To appropriately transfer information to persons with disabilities when a disaster occurs or is feared to occur, the establishment of information transmission systems paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities will be promoted in cooperation with private business

²⁴ The biggest UN-related international conference ever held in Japan took place in Sendai, in March 2015. As barrier-free, information assurance, and various other programs were adopted with an eye toward making it an "accessible conference" (a conference that can be readily attended even by persons with disabilities), more than 200 persons with disabilities participated in it. The plenary session set aside opportunities for representatives of persons with disabilities' groups to speak and such speakers demanded that behavioral frameworks for disaster prevention, adopted by various countries, be inclusive so as to include persons with disabilities.

²⁵ Shelters specially designed for people who have difficulties in living in ordinary shelters. In designating welfare shelters, it is desirable to pay attention to connection the people in need of special support and family members living with them to their living spheres and communities.

²⁶ Sand arrestation barriers set up at mountain streams and other places to prevent landslide disasters.

operators, fire-fighting organs, prefectural police departments, etc. [3-(1)-3: Reposting]

- Support the establishment of necessary systems at local governments to provide appropriate support for persons with disabilities' refuge when a disaster occurs or is feared to occur, using a list of people who need support in escaping. [3-(1)-4]
- Programs to make shelters and emergency temporary houses barrier-free and prompt municipalities to help persons with disabilities receive support matching the characteristics of their disabilities and reasonable accommodation at shelters,²⁷ will be promoted based on the "Guidelines for Securing and Managing Welfare Shelters." Municipalities will be prompted to secure necessary welfare shelters as well. As prefectures are responsible for emergency rescue operations under the Disaster Relief Act, they will be prompted to appropriately secure emergency temporary houses that can be used by people in wheelchairs while taking local conditions into account. [3-(1)-5]
- Disaster prevention measures will be promoted at support facilities for persons with disabilities, medical institutions, and other places to continue welfare and medical services after the occurrence of a disaster and efforts to create extensive networks of social welfare facilities, medical institutions and other facilities within and without the local community, such as accords among welfare shelters, will be made. [3-(1)-6]
- The introduction of an emergency messaging system at firefighting headquarters across Japan, using smartphones or other non-vocal tools to send urgent messages to persons with hearing and language impairments anytime and anywhere when a fire or emergency situation occurs will be promoted. [3-(1)-7]
- The preparation of escape plans and implementation of drills at facilities for people who need special consideration in a disaster in areas where flooding is considered likely or which are subjected to warning against the possibility of damage from landslides will be promoted to ensure a smooth and prompt escape of people who need special consideration in a disaster when flood or landslide damage occurs. [3-(1)-8]
- To enable persons with disabilities to easily use welfare services for persons with disabilities, the establishment of cooperation between them and local fire companies and residents in times of natural disasters will be promoted. In addition, the fire protection and security system will be reinforced by partially subsidizing refurbishments and installations of fire-extinguishing equipment in compliance with standards set under the

²⁷ The support includes the provision of necessary goods

Building Standards Act and the Fire Service Act. [3-(1)-9: Reposting]

- Information based on the "Guidelines for Disaster Management and Reconstruction Initiatives from a Gender Equality Perspective," etc. will be provided to facilitate consideration for women in disaster management and reconstruction efforts, including women with disabilities, in the establishment of the disaster management frameworks of local governments under normal conditions and at shelters, emergency housing and other places after disaster strikes. [3-(1)-10]

(2) Promotion of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters

- Participation by persons with disabilities and their families in designing, planning and implementing measures for reconstruction in each region will be promoted, and a collection of cases will be prepared and published as part of information provision for promoting region-wide town building. [3-(2)-1]
- Providers of welfare services for persons with disabilities in disaster-hit areas will be supported to stabilize welfare services for persons with disabilities there in order to support persons with disabilities' continuous life in disaster-hit areas or support their return to the areas. [3-(2)-2]
- Mental care, supervision, advisory, and other services will be upgraded for persons with disabilities continuing refuge life away from their familiar living environments. [3-(2)-3]
- Support for the employment of persons with disabilities in disaster-hit areas will be promoted, while recognizing local employment conditions, by creating jobs in tandem with industrial policy and eliminating mismatches between job offers and seekers. [3-(2)-4]

(3) Promotion of crime prevention measures

- Promote the use of the 110 emergency call number via fax, e-mail, and other means, and take prompt and appropriate countermeasures matching individual cases. [3-(3)-1]
- Training will be promoted to help police officers deepen their understanding of disabilities and persons with disabilities and utilize measures to support communication of persons with disabilities such as assigning sign language-capable police officers to police boxes and other places, and using communication support boards. [3-(3)-2]
- Efforts will be made to prevent and promptly detect criminal damage through the

promotion of cooperation between the police and organizations of persons with disabilities, welfare facilities, government, etc. in the local community. [3-(3)-3]

- Reviews, etc. concerning the establishment of facilities will be promoted to ensure security related to crime prevention and measures taken by staff members in charge of crime prevention to enable persons with disabilities, who use support facilities, to live at ease following a stabbing spree at support facilities for persons with disabilities in July 2016. Establish a safety-ensuring system in collaboration with entities concerned, local residents, and others. [3-(3)-4]
- National movements to prevent and root out violence against women, including those with disabilities, will be further promoted through the "campaign to eliminate violence against women" and others.²⁸ The establishment of government-involved one-stop support centers for victims of sexual crimes and violence will be promoted, their management will be stabilized and counseling functions at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers will be upgraded in order to upgrade support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence and victims of violence by spouses and others. [3-(3)-5]

(4) Prevention of consumer trouble, and relief from damage

- Information needed to prevent consumer trouble and contribute to the protection and promotion of benefits for persons with disabilities as consumers will be provided. Consumer education concerning persons with disabilities, etc. will be promoted by encouraging participation in consumer-related events held by persons with disabilities and supporters of persons with disabilities and implementing training programs. [3-(4)-1]
- The establishment of monitoring networks (Regional Councils for Ensuring the Safety of Consumers) to protect persons with disabilities from consumer damage will be promoted through collaboration among groups for persons with disabilities, consumer groups, welfare-related groups, and government and various other regional bodies. [3-(4)-2]
- A counseling system for consumption life will be established, paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities by accepting requests for advice sent to consumer centers of local governments, etc. via fax, e-mail, and other means, and implementing training programs, etc. for advisors and others' understanding of persons with disabilities. [3-(4)-3]

²⁸ The campaign is annually held for two weeks from November 12 to 25 every year (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women).

- Efforts will be made to further develop various services of the Japan Legal Support Center (hereinafter referred to as "Houterasu") and organizational frameworks to provide them, aiming to promote the use of legal systems for recovery from damage suffered by persons with disabilities. [3-(4)-4]

- Efforts will be made to promptly discover and recover consumer damage suffered by people in need of special consideration such as persons with disabilities because of bank transfer scams and fraudulent business practices, through the establishment of closer cooperation among contract attorneys of Houterasu including staff attorneys, welfare organizations and other entities. [3-(4)-5]

4. Elimination of discrimination, promotion of rights advocacy, and prevention of abuse

[Basic Concept]

Various kinds of publicity and awareness-raising activity will be engaged in to further expand the acceptance of the Discrimination Elimination Act, while promoting collaboration with efforts by local governments, groups for persons with disabilities, and many other subjects, in order to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in all social scenes. Efforts will also be promoted to make the Discrimination Elimination Act more viable by implementing programs to eliminate such discrimination on a broad front, including the improvement of environments, under extensive understanding of business operators and the general public.

The abuse of persons with disabilities will be prevented through the appropriate enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Maltreatment of Person with Disabilities and Support for Attendants of Person with Disabilities (Act. No. 79 of 2011) (hereinafter referred to as the "Maltreatment Prevention Act") and programs to protect the rights of persons with disabilities will be steadily advanced through such efforts as upgrading counseling and trouble-shooting systems in order to prevent the infringement of rights of persons with disabilities and relieve them from damage.

(1) Promotion of rights advocacy and prevention of abuse

- Support, such as using consultants, etc. to prevent the abuse of persons with disabilities, securing dwelling units for temporary protection and giving advice to caregivers, will be provided through the appropriate enforcement of the Abuse Prevention Act, while actively engaging in publicity and awareness-raising activities concerning that Act for the prevention of abuse of persons with disabilities. [4-(1)-1]
- Guidelines on decision-making support will be disseminated from the viewpoint of respecting self-decisions based on support for independent decision-making by persons with disabilities and the appropriate utilization of adult guardianship will be promoted. [4-(1)-2]
- Support efforts made by parties concerned to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. [4-(1)-3]
- The counseling and trouble-shooting system will be upgraded and its utilization promoted to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities and other infringements of their rights and relieve them from resultant damage. [4-(1)-4]
- Expenses needed to promote the appropriate use of the adult guardianship for persons with inadequate capacities for judgment due to intellectual disabilities or mental

disabilities will be subsidized.²⁹ In addition, training programs will be offered to foster and utilize people capable of appropriately carrying out services as adult guardians, curators or assistants. [4-(1)-5]

- The system imposing limits on the rights of adult wards, warrantees, and persons under assistance (the so-called "disqualification clause") will be reviewed and amended, if necessary, based on the "Act on Promotion of the Adult Guardianship System" (Act No. 29 of 2016) and the "Basic Plan for Promotion of the Adult Guardianship System" (adopted by the Cabinet on March 24, 2017). [4-(1)-6]

(2) Promotion of elimination of discrimination based on disabilities

- Efforts will be steadily implemented to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability, such as banning unfair discriminatory treatment on the basis of disability and thoroughly providing necessary and reasonable accommodation (reasonable accommodation) for persons with disabilities under the Discrimination Elimination Act as well as the basic policy, Handling Directions, and Handling Guidelines based on that Act. Efforts will also be made to enable companies to appropriately deal with the issue. [4-(2)-1]
- Policy measures will be steadily implemented to, in the physical aspect, make facilities barrier-free, and to improve accessibility in collecting, using and disseminating information and improving environments for training staff members, etc., while taking technological advances into account, to appropriately provide reasonable accommodation about the removal of social barriers under the basic policy based on the Discrimination Elimination Act. In this case, heed will be paid to the smooth implementation of measures in such ways as fleshing out ideas related to the improvement of environments in each field of policy measures concerned, while taking the characteristics of each policy field into account in the policy guidelines, etc. [4-(2)-2]
- Local governments will prepare the Handling Directions and advance the apparatus of Regional Support Councils for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, in cooperation with prefectures, to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability and announce the results of studies to grasp the state of preparing the Handling Directions and the apparatus of Regional Support Councils for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, etc. [4-(2)-3]
- Various kinds of publicity and awareness-raising activities will be promoted to further

²⁹ Such disabilities include developmental disabilities (the same as in 5-(1)-2)

expand the acceptance of the Discrimination Elimination Act through cooperation among government ministries and agencies concerned, local governments, companies, groups for persons with disabilities and various other subjects, led by the Cabinet Office, to broaden and deepen the national understanding of the significance and purpose of the Discrimination Elimination Act, required efforts, etc. In addition, efforts will be made to collect, analyze and publicize cases of reasonable accommodation. In addition, efforts will be made to collect, analyze and publicize cases of reasonable accommodation.[4-(2)-4]

- Instructions, etc. will be issued, if necessary, when requests for consultation, reports, etc. are made concerning a ban on discrimination against persons with disabilities and provision of reasonable accommodation at prefectural labor bureaus and Public Employment Security Offices (hereinafter referred to as "Hello Work Offices"). Support will be provided for settling trouble through third-party mediation when required by a party or parties concerned. [4-(2)-5]
- The counseling and trouble-shooting system will be upgraded and its utilization promoted to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities and other infringements of their rights and relieve them from resultant damage. [4-(2)-6: Reposting]
- Promote the elimination of discrimination against persons subject to the Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases Under the Condition of Insanity (Act No. 110 of 2003) to facilitate the social rehabilitation of such persons. [4-(2)-7]
- To prevent persons with disabilities from suffering disadvantages in obtaining national certifications, etc., reasonable accommodation in line with the characteristics of disabilities will be provided in conducting examinations, etc. [4-(2)-8]
- Conduct studies to secure accessibility when documents need to be filled in, such as seeking permission for signing and affixing seals, or for writing on behalf of a principal when the principal's intention is appropriately confirmed, except for procedures that require the principal to personally sign or affix the principal's seal. [4-(2)-9]

* In this basic program, efforts concerning the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, improvement of environments, etc. are mentioned in each field in principle, with the exception of cross-sectional measures (for example, consideration, etc. in the field of administrative services, etc. are mentioned in 7, consideration, etc. in the field of employment and work in 8, and consideration, etc. in the field of education in 9).

5. Promotion of support for independent life and decision-making

[Basic concept]

For persons with disabilities who find it difficult to make and declare their own decisions, necessary support for their decisions will be provided from the viewpoint of respecting their own decisions. In addition, systems will be created so that persons with disabilities will seek advice in their familiar locality based on their own decisions.

The realization of a local community where citizens, whether they have a disability or not, mutually respect their personalities and individuality will be sought through programs to further facilitate the movement of persons with disabilities within the community and enable them to receive appropriate support in line with actual local conditions whenever and wherever necessary.

To enable persons (including children) with disabilities to live day-to-day life and social life matching the dignity of individuals enjoying fundamental human rights, efforts will be made steadily to improve the quality and quantity of at-home services, upgrade services for children with disabilities, conduct research and development programs for equipment that can contribute to the improvement of accessibility and nurture and secure human resources for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

(1) Promotion of support for decision-making

- To enable persons with disabilities, who find it difficult to make and declare their own decisions, to appropriately use welfare services for persons with disabilities, the provision of necessary support, etc. will be promoted, while paying heed to their decision-making, by dispersing the guidelines of support for decision-making, etc., from the viewpoint of respecting their own decisions. [5-(1)-1]
- Expenses needed to promote the appropriate use of the adult guardianship for persons with inadequate capacities for judgment due to intellectual disabilities or mental disabilities will be subsidized. In addition, training programs will be offered to foster and utilize people capable of appropriately carrying out services as adult guardians, curators or assistants. [5-(1)-2: Reposting]

(2) Establishment of counseling and support system

- A system to provide comprehensive counseling and support service in accordance with the kinds of disability, age, gender, conditions, etc. will be established so that persons with disabilities can receive appropriate counseling and support services in their familiar community based on their own decisions. [5-(2)-1]
- Efforts to implement appropriate decisions to supply support to parties concerned, such as the preparation of plans for use of services, etc., based on the mental and physical

states of individual persons with disabilities will be promoted, regardless of whether they and their families are willing to use services, etc. [5-(2)-2]

- The establishment of core counseling and support centers will be promoted by publicizing their importance in playing central roles in providing counseling and support services in the local community by providing professional guidance to counseling and support service providers, fostering human resources, and offering comprehensive counseling services for persons with disabilities, etc. The development of support systems for people with disabilities will be accelerated by promoting the establishment and vigorous operation of councils aimed at strengthening the cooperation of related organizations and carrying out system maintenance depending on the regional situations. [5-(2)-3]
- People offering counseling services for children with development disabilities and their families and parent mentors at support centers for persons with development disabilities, etc. will be fostered,³⁰ and local problems and other issues will be discussed at regional councils for support for persons with development difficulties, consisting of people engaged in local medical, health care, welfare, educational, and other services, to upgrade local life support systems, led by support centers for persons with developmental disabilities. [5-(2)-4]
- Coordinators of counseling and support services will be assigned to local support bases to provide professional counseling and support for children with higher brain dysfunctions,³¹ in accordance with their life stages and cooperation, coordination, etc. with councils, set up by prefectures and municipalities, and other entities concerned will be carried out to upgrade support systems for persons with disabilities, etc. Furthermore, the transmission of information on higher brain dysfunctions will be upgraded and expanded. [5-(2)-5]
- Efforts will be made to eliminate distress, anxieties, etc. of persons with intractable/rare diseases in day-to-day life and provide counseling and support for persons with intractable/rare diseases in day-to-day life through support centers for persons with disabilities, etc. in the local community so as to promote measures to support persons with intractable/rare diseases in the local community in order to offer refined counseling and support matching various needs of persons with intractable/rare diseases. [5-(2)-6]

³⁰ Parent mentors are persons who have raised children with development disabilities. Utilizing their experience, they receive consultations from and provide advice to parents soon after those parents' children are diagnosed as having development disabilities and other people concerned.

³¹ Including cases involving the simultaneous occurrence of aphasia and other related diseases.

- Support, such as using consultants, etc. to prevent the abuse of persons with disabilities, securing dwelling units for temporary protection and giving advice to caregivers, will be provided through the appropriate enforcement of the Abuse Prevention Act, while actively engaging in publicity and awareness-raising activities concerning that Act for the prevention of abuse of persons with disabilities. [5-(2)-7: Reposting]
- The quality of counseling services will be improved through such measures as the preparation and distribution of various guidelines and implementation of training programs for counseling workers for persons with disabilities and staff members engaging in support for consultation, and a network of child guidance centers, rehabilitation counseling centers, healthcare centers, and other entities concerned will be created and its use will be promoted so as to create a system enabling persons with disabilities to seek professional advice in their familiar community. [5-(2)-8]
- Information on persons with disabilities living with their families as well counseling and support services will be provided to support the homes and families. Counseling activities will be provided by parties concerned, such as peer counseling, peer support, etc.,³² which are important means mutually offered by persons with disabilities and their families, while fostering peer supporters. [5-(2)-9]
- Peer supporters will be fostered through the utilization of the Community Life Support Project and promote peer support in order to reinforce support for children with developmental disabilities and their families. [5-(2)-10]
- National movements to prevent and root out violence against women, including those with disabilities, will be further promoted through the "campaign to eliminate violence against women" and others. The establishment of government-involved one-stop support centers for female victims of sexual crime and sexual violence will be promoted, their management will be stabilized and counseling functions at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers will be upgraded in order to upgrade support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence and victims of violence by spouses and others. [5-(2)-11: Reposting]

³² Here, "peer" means "buddy, equal or compeer." Peer support is aimed at giving people in need a sense of security and a sense of self-affirmation, which cannot be gained through support by professionals, because they can share feelings coming from people who have experienced the same problems and environments.

(3) Enrichment of transition support to community life, home care services, etc.

- To enable persons with disabilities to live day-to-day life and social life matching the dignity of individuals enjoying fundamental human rights, in-home long-term care, home-visit care for persons with severe disabilities, accompanying support services, activity support services, and other support services will be provided in accordance with the needs of individual persons with disabilities to help in-home persons with disabilities live day-to-day life and social life. Improvements will be made to the quantity and quality of in-home care by securing short-term stay services and places for daytime activities, etc. [5-(3)-1]
- Daytime and nighttime medical care will be upgraded and the development of social resources that can be temporarily used by persons with disabilities when necessary because of changes in their physical conditions or their supporters' circumstances will be promoted so as to enable persons with disabilities in need of constant care to live in the community of their choice. [5-(3)-2]
- Self-support, aimed at training to improve the physical functions and living capacity of persons with disabilities (functional training and training for day-to-day living), will be changed to a mechanism usable by anyone, and training programs by professional staff members in accordance with the characteristics of users' disabilities will be promoted so users can receive necessary training at nearby facilities. [5-(3)-3]
- Support for programs carried out by local governments, taking local characteristics and users' conditions into account, such as upgrading the functions of local activities support centers, etc., which provide convenience in day-to-day life, will be promoted while supporting movements for outings and offering opportunities for creative activities and manufacturing activities [5-(3)-4]
- Local activities support bases will be established to promote support for persons with disabilities living in the local community and reinforce functions to secure the system of providing in-home long-term care and services, and to support professional care in order to make them cable of dealing with the worsening of disabilities and aging of persons with disabilities. [5-(3)-5]
- Support facilities for persons with disabilities will support the relocation of residents to life in the community and support persons with disabilities living in the community from the viewpoint of encouraging their relocation to life in the community. The establishment of group homes in various forms as a place of residence for persons with disabilities in the community will be promoted and systems will be upgraded to meet the needs of persons with severe disabilities. [5-(3)-6]

- Persons with disabilities will be encouraged to relocate to life in the community by introducing support for their independent life and new services to support life on their own. [5-(3)-7]
- The development of local infrastructures, including councils of people involved in health, medical and welfare services and support for securement of dwelling units, will be promoted to create a comprehensive local care system applicable to mental disabilities as well so that persons with mental disabilities and their families can live in their own way as members of the local community and with a sense of security. [5-(3)-8]

(4) Enrichment of support for children with disabilities

- Benefits and other support will be provided as much as possible for all children and child-rearing families, including children with disabilities and other families, in the familiar community under the Child and Child Care Support Act (Act No. 65 of 2012). Necessary support will be also provided to enable children with disabilities to smoothly use education, childcare, etc., based on that Act, such as publicity that they are entitled to priority use thereof. [5-(4)-1]
- The acceptance of children with disabilities at childcare centers will be facilitated by such measures as making childcare centers, which accept children with disabilities, barrier-free, implementing training programs to secure staff members in charge of children with disabilities and improve their expertise and projects to visit childcare centers, etc. [5-(4)-2]
- Systems to supply effective support, consistent from the time of being a baby and toddler through graduation from school, will be established in familiar places in the community through such measures as entities concerned sharing information concerning growth records of babies and consideration given to them in guiding them, when necessary and while paying heed to the handling of information, from the viewpoint of supporting the growth of children with disabilities. Support will be provided in such forms as providing information on ways of treatment and education and counseling. [5-(4)-3]
- Doctors capable of examining developmental disabilities and providing support will be fostered, and the allocation of supporters, such as travelling professional supports, will be promoted in light of the importance of diagnosing developmental disabilities and providing support at an early stage. [5-(4)-4]
- Systems will be upgraded to enable children with disabilities to receive necessary support in their familiar community through such measures as providing development

support for children with disabilities, etc., including giving guidance and training to children with disabilities under the Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of 1947) and providing in-home long-term care, short-stay service, and day-time monitoring service that temporarily accepts children with disabilities, etc. based on the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities. Appropriate support matching the development stages of children with disabilities will be also offered, such as nursery center visiting support and day services for after-school children, etc. In addition, cooperation between health care, medical care, and welfare and other organs concerned will be promoted to enable children in need of medical care to receive comprehensive support in the community. [5-(4)-5]

- The homes and families of children with disabilities will be supported through the provision of information as well as counseling and support services. For children with severe mental and physical disabilities living with their families, support for in-home care, such as short-term stays at facilities equipped with professional support systems, in-home long-term care, development support for children with disabilities, etc. will be upgraded. [5-(4)-6]
- Professional functions of development support centers for children with disabilities and facilities housing children with disabilities will be reinforced in accordance with the degree of aggravation, duplication and diversification of disabilities. In addition, necessary institutional improvements will be made for such institutions, positioned as core support bases in the community, so that they will tie up with business establishments, etc. in the community, and play their roles as treatment and education organs capable of meeting a variety of needs, including medical care for children with disabilities. [5-(4)-7]

(5) Improvement of quality of welfare services for persons with disabilities

- Providers of welfare services for persons with disabilities, and counseling and support services, and providers of appropriate guidance for them to smoothly offer such services, will be fostered and allocated. [5-(5)-1]
- Training and other programs will be implemented to enable staff members at business establishments providing welfare services for persons with disabilities to understand the philosophy of a society of coexistence and provide necessary support for persons with disabilities and their families while respecting their will. [5-(5)-2]
- Appropriate solutions to complaints filed against business establishments providing welfare services for persons with disabilities, appropriate implementation of third-party assessment of the business establishments and release of assessment results, etc. will be

promoted. Persons with disabilities, etc., who use welfare services for persons with disabilities, will be enabled to choose high-quality services matching their individual needs and the establishments will be prompted to improve the quality of their services. [5-(5)-3]

- To enable persons with disabilities, who find it difficult to make and declare their own decisions, to appropriately use welfare services for persons with disabilities, the provision of necessary support, etc. will be promoted, while paying heed to their decision-making, by dispersing the guidelines of support for decision-making, etc., from the viewpoint of respecting their own decisions. [5-(5)-4: Reposting]
- The state will prepare a basic policy, setting numerical targets concerning the establishment of service infrastructure, etc. for supporting the lives of persons with disabilities in the community to assist local governments' preparation of Plan for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities and is making systematic efforts to ensure a system for the provision of welfare services for persons with disabilities, and consultation support, as well as the Community Life Support Project by prefectures and municipalities. [5-(5)-5]
- For persons with severe disabilities who require long-hour home-visit services, municipalities responsible for providing such services will be involved in publicity and receive support provided in cooperation with prefectures. [5-(5)-6]
- Efforts will continue to be made to eliminate regional discrepancies in welfare services for persons with disabilities through appropriate support, etc. for municipalities provided by prefectures that have jurisdiction over them. [5-(5)-7]
- The coverage of diseases by the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities will be expanded to include the provision of welfare services, etc. for persons with intractable/rare diseases, and understanding and cooperation will be promoted to facilitate clerical procedures paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities (changes and advances in disease conditions, needs for welfare, etc.) at local governments. [5-(5)-8]
- Ongoing studies will be conducted on measures to further upgrade welfare services for persons with disabilities, taking into account the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, the enforcement of the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities following revision under the Act on Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act (Act No. 65 of 2016), the implementation of Plan for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, and welfare plans for children with disabilities prepared by prefectures and municipalities. Necessary measures, based on study results, will be taken

when deemed necessary. [5-(5)-9]

(6) Promotion and research and development of assistive products contributing to improvement of accessibility and fostering of assistance dogs for physically disabled people

- Research and development programs to improve the user-friendliness of assistive products by supplying high-quality, inexpensive products, and the production of products friendly to all users by encouraging the adoption of universal design, based on research and development, people with disabilities' needs, etc. will be advanced. Active standardization of products will be conducted and, when necessary, international standards will be proposed to achieve appropriate promotion and dissemination of assistive products. [5-(6)-1]
- The widespread use of welfare equipment will be promoted in a manner matching the times by using public funds to partially cover the purchase, borrowing, and repairing of assistive equipment, granting or lending equipment for use in day-to-day life, and providing information on welfare equipment. [5-(6)-2]
- The provision of information on welfare equipment and the establishment of counselling counters will be facilitated by establishing a network of information providers and counselling organs, and the quality of professional counsellors offering advice on welfare equipment will be upgraded by upgrading training and other programs. [5-(6)-3]
- The fostering of assistance dogs for physically disabled persons and the smooth use of assistance dogs for physically disabled persons at facilities, etc. for persons with disabilities will be facilitated based on the Act on Assistance Dogs for Physically Disabled Persons (Act No. 49 of 2002). [5-(6)-4]
- Research and development programs for robotics, etc. will be promoted to support the safe and secure lives of persons with disabilities from the viewpoint of supporting their independent activities. Furthermore, the research and development of care robots will be promoted and necessary improvement of environments for their introduction in actual care services will be implemented under the "New Robot Strategy" adopted by the Headquarters of Japan's Economic Revitalization on February 10, 2015. [5-(6)-5]

(7) Fostering and securement of human resources who support welfare for persons with disabilities

- Welfare professionals, such as certified social workers, psychiatric social workers, and care workers will be fostered and secured while making effective use of their expertise

and knowledge. Efforts will also be made to secure human resources with professional skills and knowledge, such as physical therapists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, prosthetists, speech therapists, certified public psychologists,³³ and other people engaged in rehabilitation and other services,³⁴ and improve the quality of their work. For home help services, fostering and training programs will also be offered for home helpers understanding the characteristics of disabilities. In addition, business operators offering welfare services for persons with disabilities will be prompted to thoroughly respect labor regulations and improve treatment and work environments for service workers. [5-(7)-1]

- Professional studies on disabilities at the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities and other professional national institutions will be conducted. While the collection, provision, etc. of information will be carried out, the institutions will be actively used for fostering and training staff members engaging in welfare services for persons with disabilities. [5-(7)-2]
- Peer supporters will be fostered through the utilization of the Community Life Support Project and promote peer support in order to reinforce support for children with developmental disabilities and their families. [5-(7)-3: Reposting]

³³ The national examination for psychologists was held for the first time in 2018.

³⁴ A physical therapist is occasionally referred to as "PT," occupation therapist as "OT," and speech therapist as "ST."

6. Promotion of health and medical care

[Basic concept]

Medical care and support for persons with mental disabilities will be provided in the local community as much as possible to help each person with mental disabilities live at ease as a member of the community in his or her own way. The early relocation of persons with mental disabilities from hospitalization to the community will be facilitated to end so-called social hospitalization. Post-discharge support will be provided for persons with mental disabilities to smooth their relocation to and settlement in the community.

Local medical care systems, etc. will be upgraded to enable persons with disabilities to receive medical care and rehabilitation services in their familiar community.

The development of innovative drugs, etc., based on excellent basic studies, as well as research and development programs concerning the discovery of causes and conditions of diseases, etc., and the prevention, treatment, etc. of them, utilizing the latest knowledge and technology will be promoted. To meet needs for high-quality medical services, innovative medical equipment will be developed through such means as the utilization of AI, ICT, and robotics.

In addition, measures will be steadily implemented to foster and secure personnel for health and medical care services along with measures for health and medical care concerning intractable/rare diseases and the prevention and treatment of diseases, etc. that cause disabilities.

(1) Appropriate provision of mental health and medical care

- While medical care and support for persons with mental disabilities will be provided in the community as much as possible, the early discharge of persons with disabilities from hospital (shortening of hospitalization period) and relocation to the community will be promoted to eliminate so-called social hospitalization by developing social resources through the following measures to enable persons with mental disabilities to live in the community. [6-(1)-1]
 - A. The establishment of appropriate mental care service systems and improvement of counselling functions in the community will be promoted by facilitating cooperation between specialized hospitals and non-specialized hospitals, healthcare centers and other institutions conducting examinations, and by establishing mental emergency systems capable of addressing urgent needs. [6-(1)-1-A]
 - B. The contents of psychiatric daycare services and outreach (home-visit support) will be upgraded by a variety of job categories such as outpatient medical services and treatment of mental disabilities such as social withdrawal. [6-(1)-1-B]

- C. In-home long-term care and other home visit-oriented services will be upgraded and a local supply system of counselling and support services (Transition Support to Community Life and Community Life fixing support) will be established. [6-(1)-1-C]
- D. Human resources for psychiatrists, care workers, psychiatric social workers, certified public psychologists, etc. who are involved in the relocation of persons with mental disabilities within the community will be fostered, and a tie-up system will be established among them. [6-(1)-1-D]
- Programs to raise citizens' mental health through consulting, counselling and other opportunities concerning mental health at schools and workplaces will be promoted. Other measures to be promoted include programs to recognize changes in children's mental state at schools, appropriate measures by employers to address employees with mental health disorders at workplaces, and counselling on mental health at healthcare centers and mental health and welfare centers in the community. Furthermore, ways of preventing mental illness and diagnosing it at an early stage will be established, and opportunities to diagnose it will be ensured and upgraded in order to lead to appropriate support. [6-(1)-2]
 - A variety of counseling systems matching the needs of persons with mental disabilities and their families will be created. Support will be provided for regional public bodies engaging in counseling activities through families of persons with mental disabilities and other related parties. [6-(1)-3]
 - Prefectures and ordinance-designated cities will be prompted to upgrade and improve the functions of their psychiatric review boards by reviewing their operation manuals and publicizing good cases at local governments in order to ensure the protection of human rights in mental health treatment. [6-(1)-4]
 - The functions of hospital beds for mental patients in accordance with their conditions and characteristics will be differentiated, and the provision of information on mental treatment and safety measures will be promoted to enable patients and their families to choose medical institutions. [6-(1)-5]
 - For the protection of decision-making and other rights by a patient hospitalized at a psychiatric hospital, study the protection of decision-making and other rights by a third party other than the hospital, based on the contents of a report compiled in February 2017 by the "Commission to Study Ideal State of Future Mental Health, Medical Treatment, and Welfare." [6-(1)-6]

- The development of a comprehensive local care system applicable to mental disabilities as well will be promoted so that persons with mental disabilities and their families can live in their own way as members of the local community and with a sense of security. [6-(1)-7: Reposting]
- The establishment of bases for social activities will be promoted, home care will be upgraded, and understanding among residents in the community will be facilitated for smooth relocation of persons with mental disabilities to and settlement in the community. Programs related to support for persons with mental disabilities after discharge from hospital, including employment, will be carried out. [6-(1)-8]
- Mental health and medical care services will be provided, and support will be upgraded through cooperation of medical care and welfare, based on the Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases Under the Condition of Insanity, for persons subject to the law. [6-(1)-9]

(2) Enrichment of health and medical care

- The local medical care system, etc. will be upgraded to enable persons with disabilities to receive necessary medical care and rehabilitation services in their familiar community. In such a case, particular attention will be paid to deal with the worsening and increasing number of disabilities due to such causes as the aging of persons with disabilities. [6-(2)-1]
- Based on the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, expenses for medical care for reducing mental or physical disabilities of persons with disabilities, etc. and for enabling them to live an independent day-to-day life and social life (medical expenses to support independence) will be subsidized. [6-(2)-2]
- At the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities, functional rehabilitation training for each disability, along with medical counselling and mental support, is exercised to pave the way for early discharge from hospital and social rehabilitation. In addition, services and information are provided to promote the health of persons with disabilities. [6-(2)-3]
- For disabilities involving bones, joints and other functions as well as sensory organs and higher brain dysfunctions, whose functions or recovery can be expected through rehabilitation drills, efforts will be made to secure appropriate assessment and integrated rehabilitation from hospital to the community, etc. [6-(2)-4]

- The system of providing healthcare services in combination with welfare services for the maintenance and promotion of the health of persons with disabilities will be upgraded. Appropriate medical care will be secured to prevent diseases, external injuries, infectious diseases, etc. that tend to be caused by disabilities, and to treat disabilities resulting from the simultaneous occurrence of them and concomitant diseases. [6-(2)-5]
- Programs to maintain and promote the oral health through the prevention of dental problems for persons with disabilities who find it difficult to receive regular dental checkups or dental treatment will be advanced. Programs will also be promoted to foster dental experts with knowledge and skills matching the conditions of persons with disabilities. [6-(2)-6]

(3) Promotion of research and development, etc. that contribute to improvement of health and medical care

- Research and clinical trials will be supported, clinical trial environments will be improved, and the RS Strategy Consultation of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency,³⁵ an independent administrative body, etc. will be utilized to promote the development of innovative drugs and medical devices based on excellent basis studies. [6-(3)-1]
- Research and development programs concerning causes of diseases and other matters will be promoted, and clinical conditions, prevention, treatment, etc. will be clarified, utilizing the latest knowledge and skills while paying head to ethical factors. In addition, research and development will be promoted in the field of regenerative medicine and approaches to accelerating practical applications of regenerative medicine will be made, in order to offer solutions to many persons with disabilities and patients. [6-(3)-2]
- The development of new diagnostic measures related to higher brain dysfunction and sensory function and cognition disabilities, rationalization of rehabilitation drills, and improvement of training programs will be advanced, taking advantage of advances in studies on brain function. [6-(3)-3]
- The development of rehabilitation skills for the maintenance and recovery of overall functions for life of persons with disabilities will be promoted. [6-(3)-4]

³⁵ "RS Strategy Consultation" refers to Regulatory Science Strategy Consultation (Targeting universities, research institutions and venture companies, consultation is offered from the final stage of selecting candidates for drugs, medical devices, or regenerative medical products to planning of necessary experiments, clinical tests, etc.)

- The development of innovative medical equipment, utilizing AI, ICT and robotics among other measures will be promoted to meet the need for high-quality services and support the development of equipment to support life and independence of persons with disabilities. [6-(3)-5]

(4) Fostering and securement of human resources who support health and medical care

- The quality of doctors and dentists in training courses and the lifelong learning process will be improved by upgrading education concerning medical care for persons with disabilities and comprehensive rehabilitation to deepen their understanding of disabilities. Efforts will be made to nurture high-quality care workers capable of addressing various situations and persons in need of care. [6-(4)-1]
- People with professional skills and knowledge will be secured and the quality of their work will be improved among those engaged in rehabilitation work such as physical therapists, occupation therapists, and speech therapists. [6-(4)-2]
- The quality of staff members at healthcare centers, health centers, and other places offering health counselling services in the local community will be improved, and cooperation between business establishments for healthcare, medical care, and welfare services will be promoted to promptly offer information on welfare and other services needed by persons with disabilities. [6-(4)-3]
- Doctors capable of examining developmental disabilities and providing support will be fostered, and the allocation of supporters, such as travelling professional supports, will be promoted in light of the importance of diagnosing developmental disabilities and providing support at an early stage. [6-(4)-4: Reposting]

(5) Promotion of health and medical care programs for intractable/rare diseases

- The reality of persons with intractable/rare diseases will be ascertained, causes and clinical conditions will be clarified, and the development of breakthrough diagnostic and treatment methods as well as studies on intractable/rare diseases will be promoted to raise the level of medical treatment patients receive for intractable/rare diseases through the establishment and spread of diagnostic standards and treatment guidelines. [6-(5)-1]
- A stable life of treatment for persons with intractable/rare diseases will be ensured and the quality of life for them and their families will be improved by providing appropriate support needed for home care while offering comprehensive counselling and support for the patients and securing hospitals for them in the community. [6-(5)-2]

- Treatment for intractable/rare diseases will be established and spread, and medical expenses will be subsidized to reduce the financial burden on person with intractable/rare diseases. [6-(5)-3]
- For children suffering from diseases that require long-term treatment and are accompanied by the risk of life, their families, who are required to pay huge expenses for the treatment, will be eligible for subsidies to reduce the financial burden from the viewpoint of the healthy growth of children. [6-(5)-4]
- The formation of a network linking intractable/rare diseases medical cooperation hospitals, local governments and various others concerned, led by intractable/rare disease counseling and support centers, will be promoted, and counseling and support in day-to-day life as well as exchange activities for intractable/rare disease patients living in the community will be facilitated, in order to implement measures to support the patients through detailed counselling and support matching their various needs while eliminating their distresses and anxieties during their life of treatment. [6-(5)-5]
- Children, who have had a scarcity of opportunities to get in touch with society and so failed to develop independence needed for social life as they were affected with chronic diseases during early childhood and have since been subjected to long-term treatment, will be encouraged to attain independence for social life through the provision of upgraded counselling and support, etc. matching conditions of the local community. [6-(5)-6]
- The coverage of diseases by the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities will be expanded to include the provision of welfare services, etc. for persons with intractable/rare diseases, and understanding and cooperation will be promoted to facilitate clerical procedures paying heed to the characteristics of disabilities (changes and advances in disease conditions, needs for welfare, etc.) at local governments. [6-(5)-7: Reposting]

(6) Prevention and treatment of diseases, etc. that cause disabilities

- Health checkups for pregnant women, parturient women, babies, toddlers and children, healthcare guidance, and the perinatal medical care and pediatric care systems will be upgraded to promptly discover diseases, etc. and launch treatment. Medical-care and welfare professionals with knowledge and experience in treatment and education will be secured to achieve the prompt diagnosis and treatment of diseases. [6-(6)-1]
- Programs to promote health, medical cooperation, health checkups, health guidance, etc. will be promoted to improve lifestyle habits concerning nutrition, diet, physical activities

and exercise, rest, drinking, smoking, and dental and oral health, in order to prevent lifestyle diseases as well as the occurrence of concomitant diseases and deterioration of conditions. [6-(6)-2]

- Specialized medical institutions, medical institutions in the local community, home-care services, and healthcare services provided by healthcare centers, mental healthcare and welfare centers, child guidance centers, municipalities, etc. will be upgraded, and their cooperation will be promoted to offer appropriate treatment of diseases, injuries and so on. [6-(6)-3]
- The medical care service system will be upgraded and cooperation among institutions concerned will be promoted for appropriate treatment of injuries and so on. [6-(6)-4]

7. Enrichment of consideration at government, etc.

[Basic concept]

Necessary environmental improvements and reasonable accommodation matching the characteristics of disabilities in judicial proceedings, elections, etc. will be provided to enable persons with disabilities to smoothly exercise their rights. Consideration for persons with disabilities at inquiry counters of administrative organs will be thoroughly implemented, while the use of ICT, etc. in providing administrative information, etc. will be studied as part of consideration for accessibility. Devices will be actively introduced when possible. As for the so-called disqualification cause, reviews will be constantly conducted, taking into account the intention of each system and needs created by technological advances and changes in the social situation, etc.

(1) Consideration in judicial proceedings, etc.

- Due consideration will be given in criminal case proceedings to enable persons with disabilities to express their views smoothly when they become suspects or defendants and victims or witnesses. For officials involved in the proceedings, furthermore, necessary training will be conducted to deepen their understanding of disabilities and persons with disabilities. [7-(1)-1]
- Audio and visual recording of interrogation of suspects and others, who have difficulties in communication because of mental disabilities and other reasons, will be maintained. Advisory and other programs by mental and welfare experts will also be maintained. More studies will be conducted. [7-(1)-2]
- The provision of programs to support social rehabilitation for persons with disabilities who enter correctional institutions will be promoted, and necessary training for staff members at the facilities will be conducted. [7-(1)-3]
- Community life settlement support centers will provide support to help repeat offenders, etc. among persons with disabilities receive necessary welfare services after release from correctional institutions in cooperation with probation offices and other organs concerned, in order to facilitate the social rehabilitation of repeat offenders with disabilities, etc. in correctional institutions. [7-(1)-4]
- Supports for re-integration into society of persons with disabilities, etc. who have committed crimes will be enhanced, from the viewpoint of preventing repeat convictions, through necessary supports for resolving legal disputes, which can become barriers against their re-integration into society, in cooperation among attorneys, local bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and Houterasu, etc. [7-(1)-5]

(2) Consideration in elections, etc.

- Efforts will be made to upgrade the supply of information for elections, etc., in accordance with the characteristics of disabilities, through such means as adoption of sign-language interpreters and addition of captions in campaign broadcasting, use of braille, sound, and enlarged text or the supply of information on candidates via the Internet, while taking advances in ICT, etc. into account. [7-(2)-1: Reposting]
- For persons with disabilities having difficulties in moving, voting stations will be made barrier-free, voting equipment friendly to persons with disabilities will be installed, and the voting environment will be improved at voting stations. Programs to enable persons with disabilities to smoothly vote based on a will of their own, such as appropriate implementation of proxy voting, will be promoted. [7-(2)-2]
- Voting opportunities for persons with disabilities having difficulties in voting at voting stations will be secured by promoting absentee balloting at designated hospitals, etc. and by mail and other means, while maintaining the fairness of elections. [7-(2)-3]

(3) Promotion of consideration and understanding of persons with disabilities at government and other organs

- In implementing clerical and operational work at administrative organs and other entities, necessary and reasonable accommodation (reasonable accommodation) will be adopted for elimination of social barriers, as needed by persons with disabilities under the Discrimination Elimination Act, while environmental improvements needed for reasonable accommodation in both physical and non-physical aspects will be steadily advanced. [7-(3)-1]
- In order to prompt officials at administrative organs to deepen their understanding of persons with disabilities, training programs will be implemented on diseases that require deeper understanding, the characteristics of diseases barely outwardly visible, consideration required for persons with disabilities in multiple difficulties, etc. for thorough consideration for persons with disabilities at counters and other services. [7-(3)-2]
- Government ministries and agencies will take various characteristics of disabilities into consideration when providing information on measures and facilities for persons with disabilities and during an emergency in a manner readily understandable to persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and mental disabilities, such as appropriate use of captioned and oral information. [7-(3)-3: Reposting]

- Government ministries and agencies will strive to enrich and expand the electronic supply of administrative information in a manner friendly to all users, including persons with disabilities. In providing information via websites and other means, necessary measures will be taken to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, such as the adoption of specifications that make all functionality available from a keyboard and addition of captions or phonetic explanations to videos. In addition, efforts will be made to improve web accessibility at local governments and other public entities [7-(3)-4: Reposting]
- For providing administrative information, government ministries and agencies will study the use and utilization of ICT and other new technologies paying heed to accessibility and will strive to provide information, taking accessibility into consideration, through such means as active introduction of those available for use and utilization. [7-(3)-5: Reposting]

(4) Consideration in connection with national certification

- To prevent persons with disabilities from suffering disadvantages in obtaining national certifications, etc., reasonable accommodation in line with the characteristics of disabilities will be provided in conducting examinations, etc. As for the so-called disqualification cause, reviews will be constantly conducted, taking into account the intention of each system and needs created by technological advances and changes in the social situation, etc. [7-(4)-1]

8. Support for employment, work, and economic independence

[Basic concept]

Secure various job opportunities and nurture supporters for employment to enable persons with disabilities who are willing to work to fully exercise their capacity in accordance with their competency, based on the idea that employment is important for persons with disabilities to live a high-quality and independent life in the local community. For people who find it difficult to engage in ordinary work, comprehensive support will be promoted, such as wage increases by raising the level of welfare-oriented work.

In addition, support for the economic independence of persons with disabilities will be provided through the supply of pension benefits and various allowances, cuts in economic burdens, etc. under an appropriate combination of policy measures to promote employment and work and welfare programs.

(1) Comprehensive support for work

- To further promote employment from welfare, education, medical care and other sectors, comprehensive support will be provided from the promotion of workplace training, support for acceptance before employment and support for retention after employment through close cooperation between Hello Work Offices, Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities, the Employment and Vocational Life Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities and other related organs in the community. [8-(1)-1]
- Hello Work Offices will provide detailed employment counselling, introduction, and workplace-adaptation guidance, etc. in accordance with the kinds and degrees of disabilities. [8-(1)-2]
- Employers' understanding of employment of persons with disabilities will be facilitated through the promotion of trial employment, etc. to eliminate concern about having employees with disabilities.³⁶ [8-(1)-3]
- Various subsidy programs for the establishment of an environment for employment of persons with disabilities to hire workers with disabilities and offer know-how for employment of workers with disabilities will be used. [8-(1)-4]
- The Local Vocational Center for Persons with Disabilities will conduct professional

³⁶ The trial employment program accepts persons with disabilities as employees on a short-term trial basis to promote their transfer to full-time employment.

vocation rehabilitation programs and support employers in such forms as advice on employment management. To help persons with disabilities adapt to workplaces, job coaches will offer direct and professional support and give local employment support organs, etc. technical advice and support for vocational rehabilitation services, in order to nurture professional supporters for the employment of persons with disabilities and enhance their expertise. [8-(1)-5]

- The establishment of an Employment and Vocational Life Support Center for Persons with Disabilities will be promoted as a base of cooperation between employment, healthcare and welfare, education and other related organs in the community familiar to persons with disabilities, and its functions will be enhanced to give persons with disabilities integrated counselling and support services ranging from employment to life. In cooperation with local employment support organs, support for retention at workplaces will continue. [8-(1)-6]
- Classes at polytechnic schools for persons with disabilities will be designed to respect students' wishes as much as possible, and occupational training matching the characteristics of their disabilities as well as training responsive to technological innovations and other advancements for people in employment will be conducted. In addition, ordinary public polytechnic facilities will provide occupational training for persons with disabilities while various commissioned training will be provided for persons with disabilities in accordance with their conditions, using private educational and training institutions, etc. in the community familiar to persons with disabilities. Awareness-raising activities will be carried out to help business operators and citizens deepen their understanding of the importance of developing and improving the vocational capacity persons with disabilities. [8-(1)-7]
- For workers with disabilities receiving jobs in general terms, using employment transition assistant offices and others, work retention support for coping with difficulties in life resulting from employment will be provided to promote their retention at workplaces. [8-(1)-8]
- To further advance employment in general terms at employment transition assistant offices and other offices, on-the-job training at companies in favor of the program, support for job-hunting activities (support outside facilities), etc. will be promoted. Good cases will be collected and publicized to share support know-how and improve the quality of employment. [8-(1)-9]

(2) Support for economic independence

- To enable persons with disabilities to live a high-quality, independent life in their

community, pension benefits and various allowances will be paid to them under an appropriate combination of measures to promote employment and work (including self-employment) and welfare programs. Support for economic independence will be also provided, utilizing referential tax treatments and various support measures, such as free use of welfare services available to low-income persons with disabilities. The disability pension system will be publicized to prevent persons with disabilities from failing to receive benefits due to lack of knowledge of the system. Income security for persons with disabilities will be upgraded and their income monitored on a regular basis through the steady implementation of the pensioner support benefit system. [8-(2)-1]

- Based on the Act on Provision of Special Disability Benefit to Specified Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 166 of 2004), special disability benefits are paid to specified persons with disabilities as set forth in that Act. [8-(2)-2]
- For use of facilities owned and management by the state and governmental corporations by persons with disabilities, reduction, exemption, or other measures will be taken for fees for use after examining the necessity of such measures and taking the reality of use into account. [8-(2)-3]

(3) Promotion of employment of persons with disabilities

- The employment of persons with disabilities will be facilitated through various programs led by the employment rate of persons with disabilities under the Employment Promotion Act. Programs to promote the employment of persons with mental disabilities will be upgraded based on the 2013 revision of the Employment Promotion Act making it mandatory to hire persons with mental disabilities.³⁷ [8-(3)-1]
- Companies will be prompted to hire persons with disabilities at a legally set rate of employment, with Hello Work Offices and other institutions giving guidance to companies that have no employees with disabilities or do not meet the rate. National organs will actively hire persons with disabilities to fully clear the legally set rate, recognizing their position to demonstrate the employment of persons with disabilities for private companies. [8-(3)-2]
- The fact that local governments need to introduce necessary measures for local government employees under the principle of equal treatment³⁸ and the guidelines on

³⁷ Enforced in April 2018

³⁸ The principle of equal treatment is based on Article 13 of the Local Public Service Act (Act No. 261 of 1950)

reasonable accommodation³⁹ at the recruitment, employment, and post-employment stages will continue to be publicized, in order to further promote the employment of persons with disabilities. [8-(3)-3]

- Job opportunities for persons with disabilities will continue to be increased and workplace environments improved, utilizing the special subsidiary system, etc., and the employment of persons with severe disabilities will be expanded, utilizing the employment rate system for persons with disabilities, etc.⁴⁰ [8-(3)-4]
- Government ministries and agencies will exercise "challenge employment" to hire persons with mental disabilities, etc.⁴¹ and have them experience work for one to three years with the aim of paving the way for their employment at general companies, etc. [8-(3)-5]
- Prefectural Labor bureaus will provide careful responses to individual counselling, etc. to appropriately protect the rights of persons with disabilities as workers, such as preventing abuse by employers, and offer guidance, etc. for their compliance with related laws and regulations. [8-(3)-6]
- Instructions, etc. will be issued, if necessary, when requests for consultation, reports, etc. are made concerning a ban on discrimination against persons with disabilities and provision of reasonable accommodation at prefectural labor bureaus and Hello Work Offices. Support will be provided for settling trouble through third-party mediation when required by a party or parties concerned. [8-(3)-7: Reposting]

(4) Support for work matching the characteristics of disabilities and securement of various employment opportunities

- Support will be upgraded and strengthened in accordance with the various characteristics of disabilities and measures will be introduced to enable people who have become disabled after employment to smoothly return to their workplaces and stabilize their employment. [8-(4)-1]

³⁹ Guidelines on measures that employers should take to ensure equal opportunities and treatment for persons with and persons without disabilities and amend situations hampering the effective exercise of abilities by employees with disabilities (Notice No. 117 of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare in 2015)

⁴⁰ The employment rate system for persons with disabilities calculates a pair of persons with severe physical disabilities and severe mental disabilities (excluding short-time workers) as one person.

⁴¹ Government ministries and agencies and local governments hire persons with mental disabilities and have them experience work for one to three years with the aim of realizing their employment at general companies through Hello Work Offices, etc.

- Employers' understanding of mental disabilities will be deepened through such measures as holding seminars to nurture supporters who warmly watch over persons with mental and developmental disabilities in the workplace, and expand the employment of persons with mental and developmental disabilities and promote their retention by upgrading and strengthening support matching the characteristics of their mental and developmental disabilities. In support for work by persons with mental disabilities, a shift from "medical care" to "employment" will be accelerated while employment support organs work together with medical institutions. In addition, Hello Work Offices and other organs will reinforce professional support for persons with developmental disabilities, persons with intractable/rare diseases, etc. [8-(4)-2]
- Environments that enable persons with disabilities to choose various ways of work, such as short-time work, work at home, and self-employment, will be created, and telework utilizing ICT will be further spread and expanded,⁴² in order to promote flexible ways of work making effective use of time and place. [8-(4)-3]
- The prior purchase (procurement) of goods and services from facilities employing persons with disabilities, etc., will be promoted based on the Act for Promoting Priority for Procurement of Goods, etc. from Facilities Employing Persons with Disabilities, etc. by the State, etc. (hereinafter referred to the "Act for Priority Procurement") (Act No. 50 of 2012). [8-(4)-4]
- The establishment of welfare farms designed to offer job training and employ persons with disabilities (joint project between agriculture and welfare) will be promoted. [8-(4)-5]
- The employment of persons with disabilities in the field of agriculture will be promoted by providing information to facilities and companies that employ persons with disabilities and engage in agriculture, and by supporting the sixth industrialization. [8-(4)-6]

(5) Upgrading of welfare-oriented work

- Integrated public-private programs will be promoted to support the reinforcement of management by business establishments, joint reception of orders, etc. for raising wages at employment support B-type business establishments. To raise the quality of work at employment support A-type business establishments, thorough measures will be taken to check easy entry into the business, such as setting the balance of earnings and expenses

⁴² ICT-based flexible ways of work making effective use of time and place.

at the establishments higher than the total of wages paid to users, based on the standards for designated disability welfare services, etc. revised in April 2017.⁴³ Wages for persons with disabilities will be raised through necessary support and guidance by local governments after recognizing the management conditions of business establishments by requiring business establishments failing to meet the standards to submit management improvement plans. [8-(5)-1]

- The prior purchase (procurement) of goods and services from facilities employing persons with disabilities, etc., will be promoted based on the Act for Priority Procurement. [8-(5)-2: Reposting]

⁴³ Standards for Personnel, Equipment, and Management of Designed Welfare Service Businesses for Persons with Disabilities based on the Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities (Ordinance No. 171 of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare in 2006)

9. Promotion of education

[Basic concept]

Toward the realization of a society of coexistence in which no citizens are divided according to whether or not they have a disability and all citizens mutually respect their personalities and individuality, efforts will be advanced to create a mechanism enabling them to receive education together to the best possible extent and promote programs to deepen understanding of disabilities based on what is called the "social model." To promote support for students with disabilities in higher education, programs, such as providing reasonable accommodation, will be further upgraded along with those to develop environments to offer appropriate support for students with disabilities. In addition, cross-sectional and comprehensive measures will be promoted to realize a society of coexistence and create environments which enable students with disabilities to pursue their own possibilities throughout their life, including the period of post-graduation from school, and to enjoy various opportunities for lifelong education, sports, cultural, and other activities in order to live a fruitful life as members of the community.

(1) Promotion of an inclusive education system⁴⁴

- Appropriate guidance and necessary support will be made available to children attending kindergartens, elementary schools, lower and upper secondary schools, and schools for special needs education (hereinafter referred to as "all schools"), while providing reasonable accommodation to them, through individualized education support plans and individualized teaching plans while developing fundamental environments, from the viewpoint of supporting subjective efforts for independence and social participation by children with disabilities. Options of offered consideration and learning opportunities will be increased through such programs to improve conditions where children, whether they have a disability or not, study together as much as possible and promote the development of an inclusive education system enabling individual children to receive education best suited for their educational needs [9-(1)-1]
- Appropriate measures will be introduced to prevent or promptly detect bullying involving children with disabilities, based on the "Basic Policies to Prevent Bullying" Based on the "social model," furthermore, efforts throughout entire school education to facilitate understanding of disabilities, exchanges, and joint learning will be promoted to

⁴⁴ Article 24 of the CRPD defines the inclusive education system as a mechanism in which persons with and persons without disabilities study together for the purpose of strengthening respect for human diversity, etc. and enabling persons with disabilities to develop their potential to the greatest possible extent and participate in a free society

create a society where people overcome prejudice and discrimination, and mutually respect and work together whether they have a disability or not. [9-(1)-2]

- In deciding where children with disabilities should study, the children and their guardians, municipal education boards, schools and others concerned need to agree on educational needs and necessary support in principle while respecting the opinions of the children and their guardians as much as possible under the provision of enough information to them. Parties concerned will continue to be informed that the children can flexibly change their places of learning in accordance with their development stages and adaptation. [9-(1)-3]
- Schools will be encouraged to create an in-school support system, led by an education coordinator for special support, under the leadership of the principal and provide support to meet the various needs of the child as an organization by making use of a school counsellor, school social worker, nurse, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, and other professionals as well as a special needs education assistants. [9-(1)-4]
- In providing reasonable accommodation, schools will continue to be informed that it is desirable for them to, while paying heed to information security and means of communication, recognize the state of each child's disabilities and educational needs, and make a decision and offer it after forming an agreement between the founder and school as well as the child and guardian as much as possible. [9-(1)-5]
- To secure opportunities for children in need of medical care or long-term hospitalization to receive education or study together with other children, research and other measures will be promoted to assign nurses for medical care and establish support systems for the children. [9-(1)-6]
- To promote the progression of children with disabilities to upper secondary education, consideration for their individual needs, such as the use of ICT, will be upgraded in implementing entrance examinations. [9-(1)-7]
- Efforts will be made to make special courses for children with disabilities more widely practiced, as the number of teachers in charge of special courses for children with disabilities at elementary and lower secondary schools was made into a fundamental constant by the revision of the Act on Standards for Class Formation and Fixed Number of School Personnel of Public Compulsory Education School (Act No. 116 of 1958) in March 2017, which has also made special courses for children with disabilities possible at upper secondary schools. [9-(1)-8]

- Career education and employment support for children with disabilities will be upgraded under cooperation between welfare, labor and other programs to encourage them to become independent and participate in society while utilizing various support. [9-(1)-9]
- To promptly recognize disabilities and lead to appropriate support, early educational counselling and support systems for children and their guardians will be upgraded under cooperation between medical care, health care, welfare, and other services, taking into account the results of health checkups of pupils, toddlers and children at the time of entry into school and the conditions of children after enrollment. [9-(1)-10]
- To enable children with disabilities to receive guidance and support continuously from enrollment in school through education, the preparation and use of individualized education support plans and individualized teaching plans will be promoted under cooperation between medical care, health care, welfare, labor and other services, and with their guardians' participation so that information concerning the records of their growth and contents of guidance will be shared and utilized by organs concerned, while paying heed to the handling of the information. [9-(1)-11]

(2) Development of educational environments

- All schools will be prompted to establish a special needs education system on the assumption that all schools and all classes have children in need of special support because of disabilities, and programs that enable all teachers and staff members, including holders of managerial positions, to deepen understanding and expertise concerning special needs education will be promoted. [9-(2)-1]
- Schools for special needs education will be upgraded as the local center of special needs education to reinforce the system of special needs education at kindergartens, elementary schools, and lower and upper secondary schools, and to support for children with disabilities in the community. [9-(2)-2]
- The assignment of special needs education assistants by local government will be promoted due to the importance of special needs education assistants in support for children with disabilities at kindergartens, elementary schools, and lower and upper secondary schools [9-(2)-3]
- The use of textbooks, educational materials, support equipment and so forth according to the educational needs of each child with disabilities, including the smooth creation and supply of digital textbooks, etc. and the use of ICT for communication, will be promoted due to the importance of communication for securing education opportunities

for children with disabilities and the promotion of their independence and social participation. [9-(2)-4]

- Programs to make school facilities barrier-free and address the shortage of rooms for special needs education will be promoted. In particular, necessary support will be provided to make public elementary and lower secondary schools, which can be used as shelters at the time of disaster, barrier-free and westernize toilets, while taking requests by founders of schools into account. [9-(2)-5]
- Support related the transfer of children with disabilities for school education activities will be upgraded, and cooperation between education and welfare bureaus in the community will be upgraded. [9-(2)-6]
- As teachers in charge of school for special needs education, classes for special needs education, special support service in resource rooms are required to have expertise on special needs education, measures will be promoted to raise the rate of teachers with special needs education licenses, etc. and enhance their expertise. [9-(2)-7]

(3) Promotion of support for students with disabilities in higher education

- To enable students with disabilities to participate in various opportunities provided by universities, etc. on an equal footing with students without disabilities, consideration to information security and communication in classes, etc., consideration concerning textbooks, educational materials, etc. and efforts to make facilities barrier-free will be promoted. [9-(3)-1]
- The establishment of support systems and of networks linking support personnel between universities, etc. will be promoted through such measures as standardizing counselling desks and creating support offices at universities, etc., and nurturing and dispatching support personnel in order to facilitate support based on constructive dialogues paying heed to the individual needs of each student with disabilities. [9-(3)-2]
- Universities will be prompted to disclose, on their websites, in-house prescriptions for stance and policy, procedures, etc. concerning support for students with disabilities and cases of support, and notify students of the prescriptions and cases in guidance for students. [9-(3)-3]
- To help students with disabilities find employment, universities will be prompted to establish cooperation between officials in charge of educational support, employment support, and sections in charge of support for students with disabilities, and to promote cooperation and the establishment of networks with labor and employment organs for

employment and retention support in the community, employers and their organizations, etc. [9-(3)-4]

- The provision of information through surveys and studies, which are the basis for promoting, expanding, and raising understanding of support for students with disabilities, as well as various opportunities, will be upgraded along with trading, etc. for teachers and staff members. [9-(3)-5]
- Consideration given to students with disabilities at examinations held by the National Center for University Entrance Examinations will be made more flexible to meet the needs of each student with disabilities by the use of ICT, etc., and high school and university officials concerned will be more informed of efforts for consideration. [9-(3)-6]
- Due consideration will be offered in university and other entrance examinations, and in credit recognition, to more accurately assess the ability, aptitude, and learning of students with disabilities. [9-(3)-7]
- Universities, etc. will be prompted to disclose information on consideration in examinations, barrier-free conditions of facilities, contents of support and support systems for students, acceptance records of students with disabilities, etc. [9-(3)-8]

(4) Enrichment of various lifelong learning activities

- Studies will be conducted on effective ways to provide learning support, etc. to help persons with disabilities maintain, develop, and expand the power needed to live independently in society throughout their life after graduating from school and put the results of such studies into extensive use in order to support learning by persons with disabilities at each of their life stages. Participation by persons with disabilities in the community and society will be promoted through such approaches to pave the way for realizing a society of coexistence. [9-(4)-1]
- The "Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education," that aimed at providing community-wide support for the growth of children under cooperation and collaboration between the community and schools, will be promoted on a nationwide basis, including schools for special needs education, These efforts upgrade learning and experimental programs for children with disabilities after school, on Saturdays, etc. and promote the utilization of human resources of companies and communities, etc. [9-(4)-2]
- The Open University of Japan will upgrade learning support for students with disabilities

through such measures as addition of captions to video classes and preparation of examinations in braille. [9-(4)-3]

- At public libraries and school libraries, efforts will be promoted to make the reading environment friendly to persons with disabilities at public libraries and school libraries will be promoted. [9-(4)-4]
- Various opportunities for learning activities will be provided and upgraded so that persons with disabilities can enjoy education, sports, culture and various other subjects throughout their life. [9-(4)-5]

10. Promotion of cultural and art activities, sports, etc.

[Basic concept]

The lives of persons with disabilities will be enriched and citizens' understanding and recognition of disabilities will be deepened to contribute to the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities through the participation of all persons with disabilities in art and cultural activities. The physical power of persons with disabilities will be strengthened, and their exchanges and leisure will be promoted, through recreational activities. Sports for persons with disabilities in the community will be further popularized, and persons with disabilities will be fostered and strengthened in highly competitive sports.

(1) Development of social environments for enrichment of cultural and art activities as well as leisure and recreational activities

- Children at schools for special needs education will be provided with opportunities to appreciate and experience high-quality culture and art by dispatching first-rate cultural and artistic groups and artists for performance and demonstration. Opportunities for cultural and artistic activities for children at elementary and lower secondary schools will be upgraded by dispatching artists, etc. with disabilities. [10-(1)-1]
- Opportunities will be created for cultural and art activities by people, whether they have a disability or not, by building facilities and equipment, which enable persons with disabilities to enjoy cultural and art activities, foster people involved in cultural and art activities matching the needs of persons with disabilities, establishing a counselling system and a network of people concerned, etc. In particular, support for cultural and art activities by persons with disabilities and the exhibition, etc. of excellent artistic works by persons with disabilities will be created. [10-(1)-2]
- Efforts will be made for the provision of devices and consideration, based on the philosophy of universal design, such as the availability of captions, audio assist services, materials for touching, etc. during the performance, exhibition, etc. of cultural and art activities at national museums, art museums, theaters, etc. [10-(1)-3]
- Art/Culture Festival for Persons with Disabilities will be held, and cultural and art activities by persons with disabilities will be promoted to enrich the lives of persons with disabilities, deepen citizens' understanding and recognition of disabilities, and contribute to the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities through the participation of all persons with disabilities in art and cultural activities. Cultural and art activities, etc. will be supported by private groups, etc. [10-(1)-4]

- Japan's video art will be promoted by supporting the production of barrier-free captions for persons with hearing disabilities and of audio assists for persons with visual disabilities under the Subsidy for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts. [10-(1)-5]
- Various recreation classes and festivals, athletic meets, etc. will be held, and environments for participation in various activities by persons with disabilities in the community will be created to strengthen the physical power of persons with disabilities and promote their exchanges, leisure activities, etc. through participation in recreational activities. [10-(1)-6]

(2) Development of environments for familiarization with sports and promotion of programs related to competitive athletic events, including Paralympics

- The establishment of facilities and equipment enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy sports in the community will be promoted, and programs such as fostering and utilizing human resources involved in sports matching the needs of persons with disabilities will be pushed ahead in order to create environments where people play sports, whether they have a disability or not. The number of persons with disabilities who serve as leaders in this case will be increased and persons with disabilities will be encouraged to participate as volunteers. Opportunities for all people, including those without disabilities, to enjoy sports for persons with disabilities will be created, and national efforts to promote Paralympics and other sports for persons with disabilities will be made. [10-(2)-1]
- Sports for persons with disabilities will be promoted by holding National Sports Festival for Persons with Disabilities, and sports and other events held by private groups, etc. will be supported. For sports for persons with mental disabilities, which have not been practiced as widely as sports for persons with physical disabilities and intellectual disabilities, efforts will continue to be made to increase competitions open to participation by persons with mental disabilities. [10-(2)-2]
- The government will support persons with disabilities so that they can participate in the Paralympics, Deaflympics,⁴⁵ Special Olympics World Games,⁴⁶ etc., and can interact with each other at home and abroad. The government will also support high performance sports for persons with disabilities, such as the Paralympics, will be fostered and reinforced. [10-(2)-3]

⁴⁵ An international sports event held every four years for persons with hearing disabilities. There are Summer and Winter Games.

⁴⁶ An international sports event held every four years for persons with intellectual disabilities. There are Summer and Winter Games.

- A national festival for sports, culture, and education for schools for special needs education across Japan will be held in 2020 to promote the creation of local societies of coexistence as a legacy of the 2020 Tokyo Games. [10-(2)-4]

- Information will be provided on standards and advanced cases related to barrier-free universal designs of sports facilities to make them friendlier to spectators with disabilities. [10-(2)-5]

11. Promotion of cooperation and coordination in the international community

[Basic concept]

As a State Party to the CRPD, Japan will appropriately deal with inquiries and examinations by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and actively participate in international programs in the field of persons with disabilities to promote measures for them in collaboration with the international community. To achieve SDGs in implementing development cooperation, Japan will, as stipulated in the convention, implement programs which ensure that the development of capacities is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.⁴⁷ Japan will also promote measures such as international exchanges of persons with disabilities in the fields of cultural and art activities, sports, etc.

(1) Promotion of information transmission to the international community

- Japan will promote external transmission of information on its measures for persons with disabilities, while paying heed to their features and progressiveness, including its active participation in the programs for persons with disabilities implemented by international non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations and other regional organizations, and its appropriate responses to inquiries and examinations by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [11-(1)-1]
- Information on measures for persons with disabilities taken by international organizations such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and foreign governments will be collected and provided. [11-(1)-2]

(2) Promotion of coordination with international frameworks

- As measures for persons with disabilities need to be implemented under international cooperation, Japan will actively participate in the programs for persons with disabilities taken by the international non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations, and other regional organizations. As a State Party to the CRPD, Japan will also appropriately deal with inquiries and examinations by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [11-(2)-1]
- “Leave no one behind” programs will be promoted to achieve the SDGs, based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015. [11-(2)-2]

⁴⁷ These capacities including information, experiences, training programs, and best practices.

- Actively promote cooperation in the field of disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other member countries for the Asia and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022. [11-(2)-3]

(3) Promotion of international cooperation via official development assistance

- Based on the Development Cooperation Charter (adopted by the Cabinet on February 10, 2015), efforts will be made to realize the security of humans through protection and reinforcement of capacities, taking the needs of partner countries into account and focusing on the socially vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. Japan will strive to have its philosophy understood and accepted by partner countries and step up efforts to make it mainstream in the international community. [11-(3)-1]
- Cooperation will be provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency in such forms as accepting trainees and sending experts to enhance the capacity of organizations and human resources involved in activities in the field of disabilities in developing countries. Support will be provided to local nongovernmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as NGOs), etc. in each field of disabilities through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security. [11-(3)-2]
- Efforts will be made to gain greater participation by persons with disabilities in both the provision and acceptance of assistance in implementing international cooperation in the field of disabilities [11-(3)-3]

(4) Promotion of international exchanges among persons with disabilities

- The fostering of young leaders who will play central roles in international exchanges and social activities in the field of disabilities by organizations of persons with disabilities, etc. will be supported. Cooperation with Japanese NGOs engaging in activities related to persons with disabilities in developing countries will be promoted, and the projects by these NGOs concerned will be supported. [11-(4)-1]
- International exchanges among persons with disabilities in the fields including culture art, and sports will be supported. From the viewpoint of promoting sports diplomacy, para-athletes and others engaged in para-sports will be invited through the Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement, under which the dispatching and inviting of athletes and coaches, as well as support for transporting sports equipment are conducted. Efforts will be made to convey Japan's varied attractiveness, including art and cultural activities by persons with disabilities, from the viewpoint of publicity and culture diplomacy. [11-(4)-2]

Closure: Long-term challenges for the realization of the society envisioned by the Basic Act and CRPD

The basic program is expected to be a strong engine for the realization of a society envisioned by the Basic Act and CRPD. To exercise the functions to the best possible extent, challenges to the comprehensive and effective implementation of measures for persons with disabilities need to be addressed one by one.

The challenges include those that can be resolved by short-term measures and those that require long-term approaches. In the case of the latter, approaches do not need to be bound by the period of the basic program but should be implemented on a long-term basis. Long-term challenges to address down the road include the following:

- Specific indexes, based on changes in social environments and future predictions, need to be set. In this case, consistency with indexes related to SDGs needs to be taken into account.
- Efforts are required to gain cooperation from the legislative and judicial branches of government, including the provision of reasonable accommodations and environmental improvements to enable such provision, while paying heed to the independence of the three branches of government
- Studies need to be made on the movement of persons with disabilities in day-to-day life, including commuting accompanying employment and work
- Reviews of measures will be required, when necessary, based on knowledge gained through international comparisons. In this case, it should be noted that the standardization of translations will contribute to understandability and comparison.