

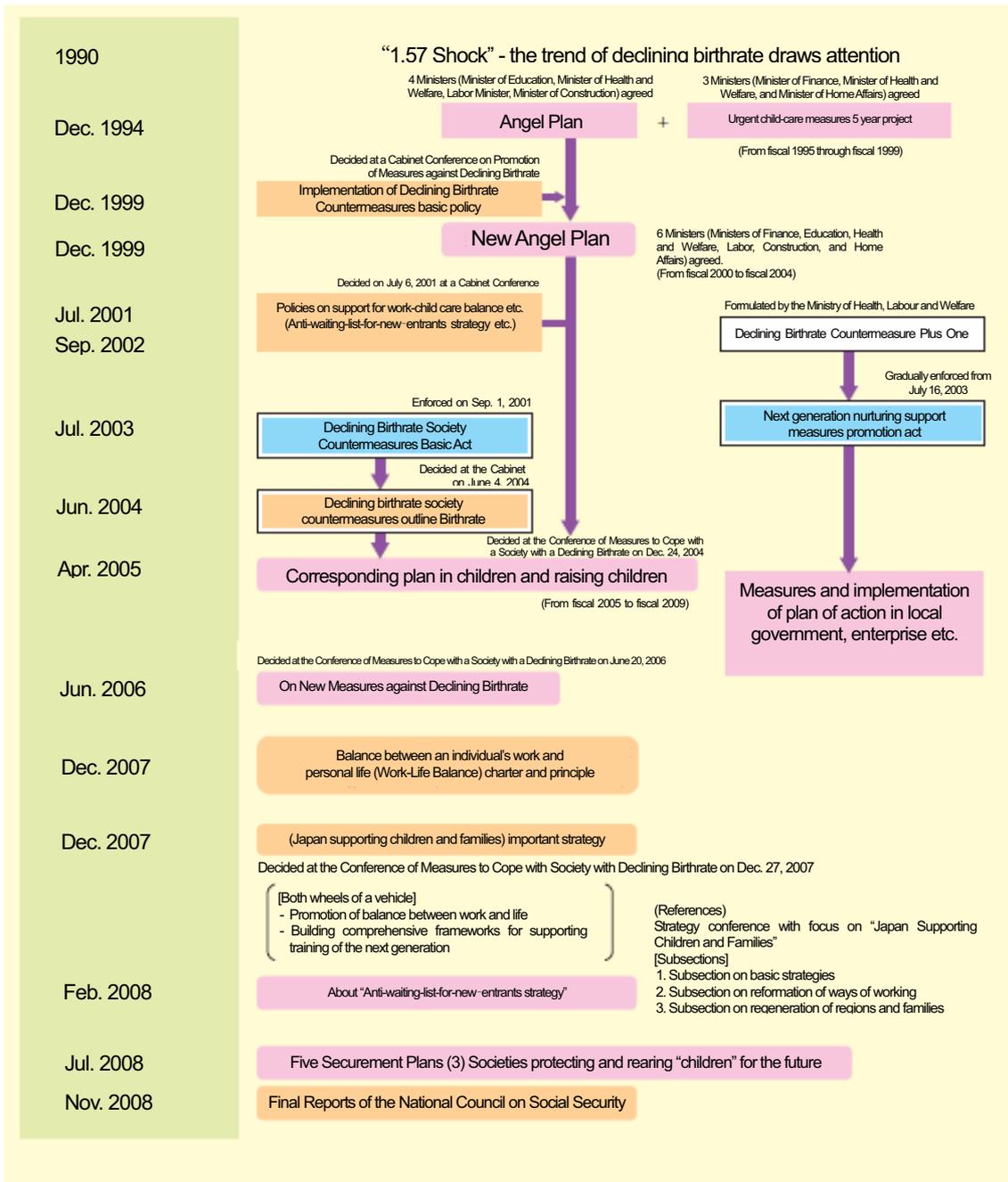
Chapter 2 Countermeasures against a Declining Birthrate

Section 1 Past countermeasures

From “1.57 Shock” to “Important strategy of a ‘Japan that supports children and families’”

- In Japan, the “1.57 Shock” of 1990 led to serious consideration of the declining birthrate and the decreasing number of children as a “problem.” It also led to the review of countermeasures to be taken, such as support for maintaining a balance between working and parenting, in order to create an environment in which it is easier to raise children. The “Angel Plan” was devised in December 1994, and day-care services were enhanced, setting FY 1999 as the target year. The Angel Plan was revised in December 1999 to include not only day-care service related issues but also an approach to employment, mother and child health, consultation, education, etc and a “New Angel Plan” was formulated and was promoted from 2000 to 2004.
- Past efforts were made from the viewpoint of support for both holding a job and raising children, and centered around measures relating to day-care. But society as a whole was encouraged to promote comprehensive efforts from the viewpoint of supporting the entire family in raising children in the Declining Birthrate Countermeasure Plus One summarized by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in September 2002. After that, in July 2003, in order to promote 10 year period intensive and deliberate efforts by local authorities and business operators, the Next Generation Nurturing Support Measures Promotion Act was formulated and has been implemented from April 2005.
- The Declining Birthrate Society Countermeasures Basic Act was established according to a member’s bill in July 2003 and, based on the Declining Birthrate Society Countermeasures Basic Act, Outlined Declining Birthrate Society Countermeasures were formulated in June 2004 as a policy of implementation to deal with the declining birthrate. 28 concrete acts were proposed based on three opinions and four key issues in this outline, designating the cabinet to tackle those issues.
- The Raising Children/Child Assistance Plan was formulated in the Declining Birthrate Society Countermeasure Conference in December 2004. The support plan includes setting detailed implementation content and targets for five years from FY 2005 to FY 2009 according to the four key issues proposed in the outline of the Declining Birthrate Society Countermeasures. The number of items of the overall plan to be implemented is approximately 130. The point of view of citizens has also been considered and the image of a society that should be aimed at after roughly 10 years has been presented. The target was linked to the plan of action by municipalities nationwide, and supporting the promotion plan leads to the support of the plan of action of the municipalities.
- To deal with a greater-than-expected decline in the birthrate, and to plan drastic expansion, reinforcement, diversion of countermeasures against it, the New Countermeasures Against the Declining Birthrate were decided on in the Council of Declining Birthrate Society in June 2006. The main two points were: 1. reforming the awareness of society as a whole, and, 2. enhancing the implementation of measures from the perspective of focusing on children and family. Forty detailed specific measures were proposed.

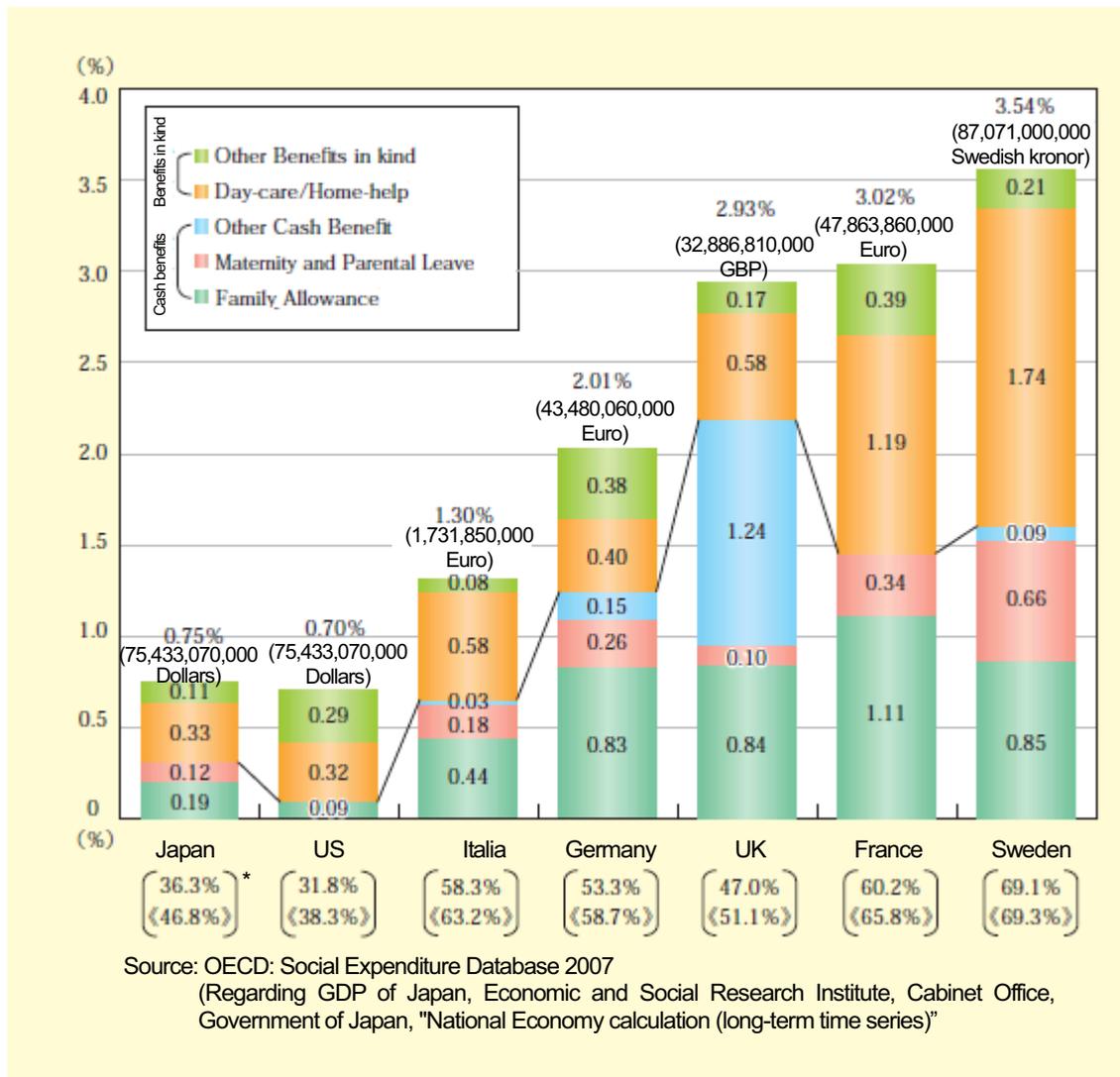
Dia. Progress of countermeasures against declining birthrate



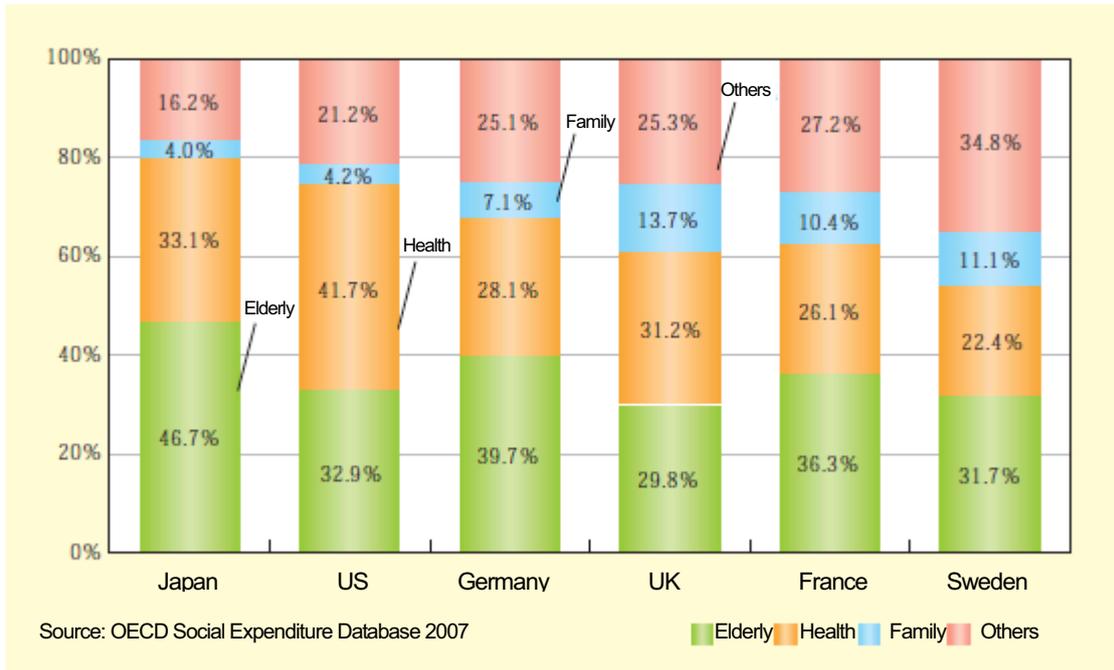
- Based on the severe prospects regarding the declining birthrate and growing proportion of elderly people, in December 2007, a strategy with the focus on a “Japan supporting children and families” was formulated at the Conference on Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate. Compared with European countries the indication is that the Japanese budget for family policies overall is quite small. Therefore, the strategy, while paying attention to the gaps between what people hope and the reality regarding marriage, birth, and child care, and in order to dissolve the alternative structures causing people to select either work or marriage, child birth and rearing, considers necessary concurrently grappling with the following problems as “the two main wheels”: “the Achievement of Balance of an Individual’s Work and Personal Life (Work-Life Balance) by Revising the Working Method” and “the Framework Structure for Comprehensive Next Generation Training Support” as being a social basis for the balance. In addition, the important strategy, while placing necessity on effective financial investment as being an “investment in the future”, estimated the amount needed for benefits and services related to children and families in supporting realization of the people’s desirable state of marriage, and child birth and care. The result revealed the additional social cost to be 1.5-2.4 trillion yen

Dia.

Comparison of GDP ratio of family related social expenses of each country (2003)

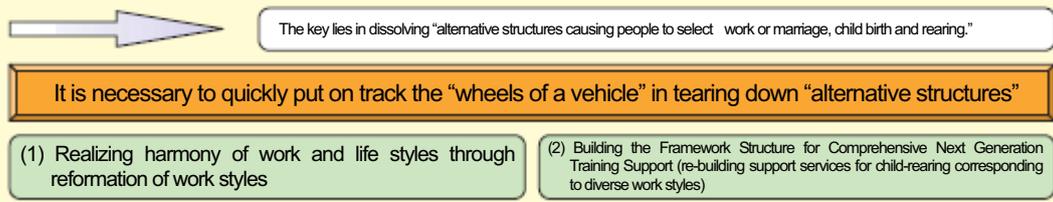


Dia. Component ratios of social security benefits of each country (2003)



Dia. View on formulating a strategy focusing on a “Japan supporting children and families”

- A decrease in the labor force population caused by decreasing population is a problem from the point of view of economic growth too. The background of the declining birthrate is the gap between the hopes and reality of marriage, and child birth and rearing.
- In order that the Japanese economy can sustain development with a decreasing population both the following need to be simultaneously realized: (1) “Realization of labor market participation of the youth, women and elderly people” and (2) “realization of people’s desirable marriage, and child birth and rearing”.



Section 2 Promotion of urgent measures against declining birthrate

1. Recent arguments on declining birthrate

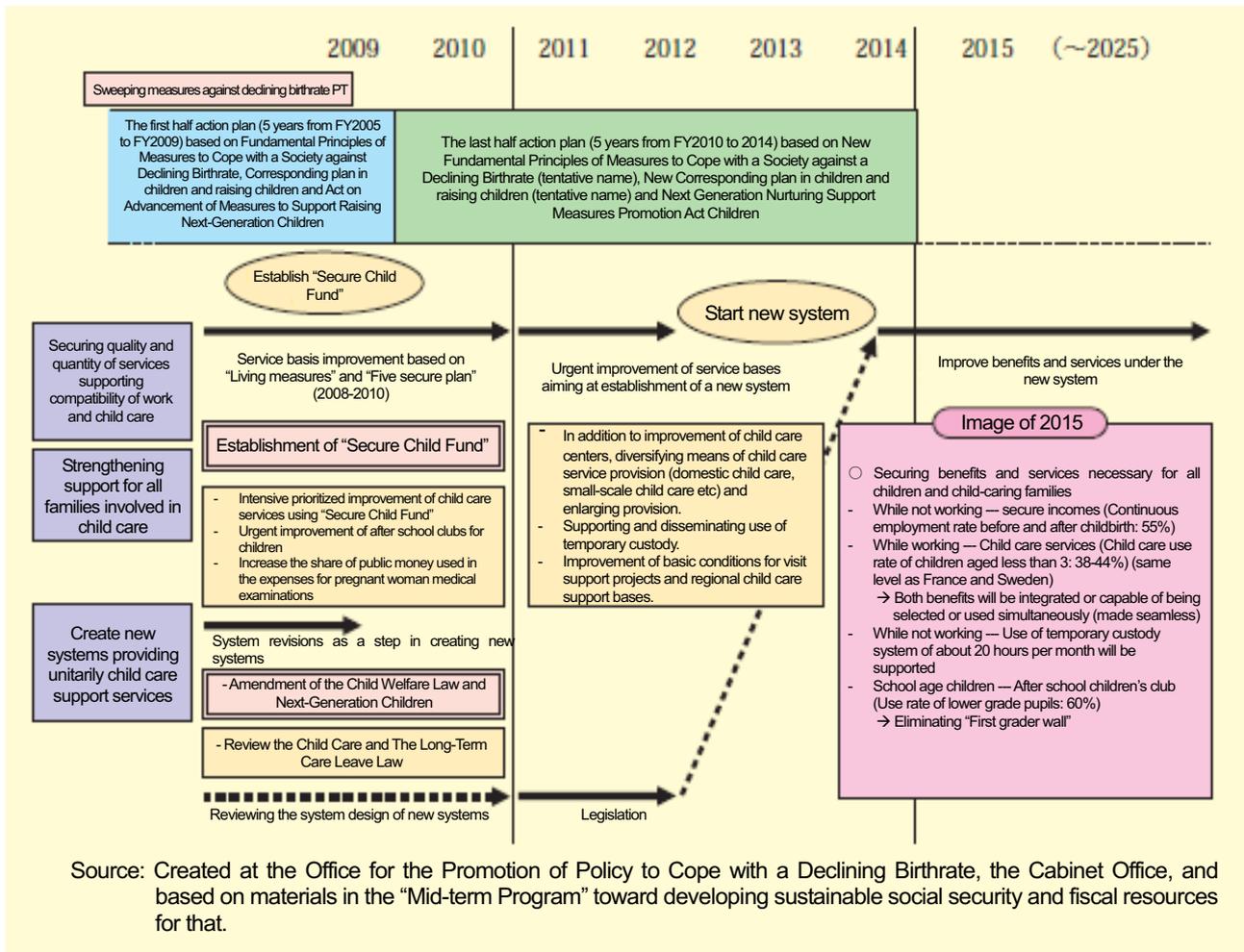
- In July 2008 careful social security measures that took into consideration the point of view of the people in order to make them feel “secure” were developed and measures to be urgently taken and processes for implementing them then organized as the “Five Security Plans”. Measures against the declining birthrate have been included “Developing social bases for supporting child cares such as child care services” and “Realizing work-life balance” aiming at eliminating gaps between people’s “hopes” and “reality” of marriage, and child birth and care and realizing a society that protects and raises the “children” of the future.
- In January 2008, the National Council on Social Security (hereinafter, referred to as “National Council”) was established in order to conduct discussions from the point of view of people about the ideal image of social security system enabling people to have hopes and feel secured and about what roles the national government is expected to play and what burdens people should share in the system. The interim report states that it is important to aim at eliminating “gaps between hopes and reality” through rearing down “alternative structures” which cause people to select either work or marriage and child birth and rearing and to grapple with the problems of (1) a good work-life balance and (2) improving the social base for supporting child care through utilizing “both wheels of a vehicle”. In addition, because the amount of expenditure related to family policies in Japan is very small compared to that of foreign countries the report considers it “indispensable to boldly and effectively perform financial investment after the national and local authorities’ have attempted to secure fiscal resources under the responsibility of the national government and to create a new system for drastically improving the quality and quantity of services”. Based on the information organized in the abovementioned interim report the final report provided the point of view that a new system related to improving the social base for supporting child care would need to be created.

In addition, regarding measures related to pensions, medical and long-term care, and the declining birthrate, the estimation is that the future expenditure necessary to improve and strengthen those functions and to raise the share of tax revenues used in the basic pension from 1/3 to 1/2 both the national and local authorities will probably need to secure additional public money. That additional of fiscal resources, which have been converted into excise percentages based on the economic scale of the time, will come to: according to the present social insurance method about 3.3-3.5% in 2015 and about 6% in 2025, and then depending on the method of taxation about 6-11% in 2015 and about 9-13% in 2025. Among that, regarding measures against the declining birthrate, the estimation is that 0.4-0.6% will be required in fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2025. Furthermore, in addition to the benefits and services based on the system, there will need to be a variety of forms of other social security-related ones provided by the national and local authorities. From the point of view of implementing services that are based on the decentralization policy, regional residents’ needs, and the actual situation in regions, securing the necessary fiscal resources will also be a large problem.

- In order to make people feel more secure with the situation of the rapidly declining birthrate and a growing proportion of elderly people the creation of firm and sustainable social security systems of “medium-scale welfare and burden” will be necessary along with simultaneously indicating the line to be followed in a sweeping reform of the tax system in securing stable fiscal resources. The “Mid-term Program’ toward Building Sustainable Social Security and Securing Stable Fiscal Resources for Them” (hereinafter referred to as the “Mid-term Program”) was therefore formulated in December 2008. In the Mid-term Program, toward realization of “medium-scale welfare and burden”, development shall be advanced with the period of the system revision indicated in a schedule taken into consideration and the embodiment of the content gradually advanced based on the stable fiscal resources being secured for the expenditure required for its establishment and institutionalization.

Moreover, regarding excise taxes, by appropriating all the tax revenue for expenditure on social security benefits for established and institutionalized pensions, medical care and long-term care, and measures against the declining birthrate all that revenue shall be returned to the people and not used in enlarging government services.

Dia. Schedule for measures against declining birthrate



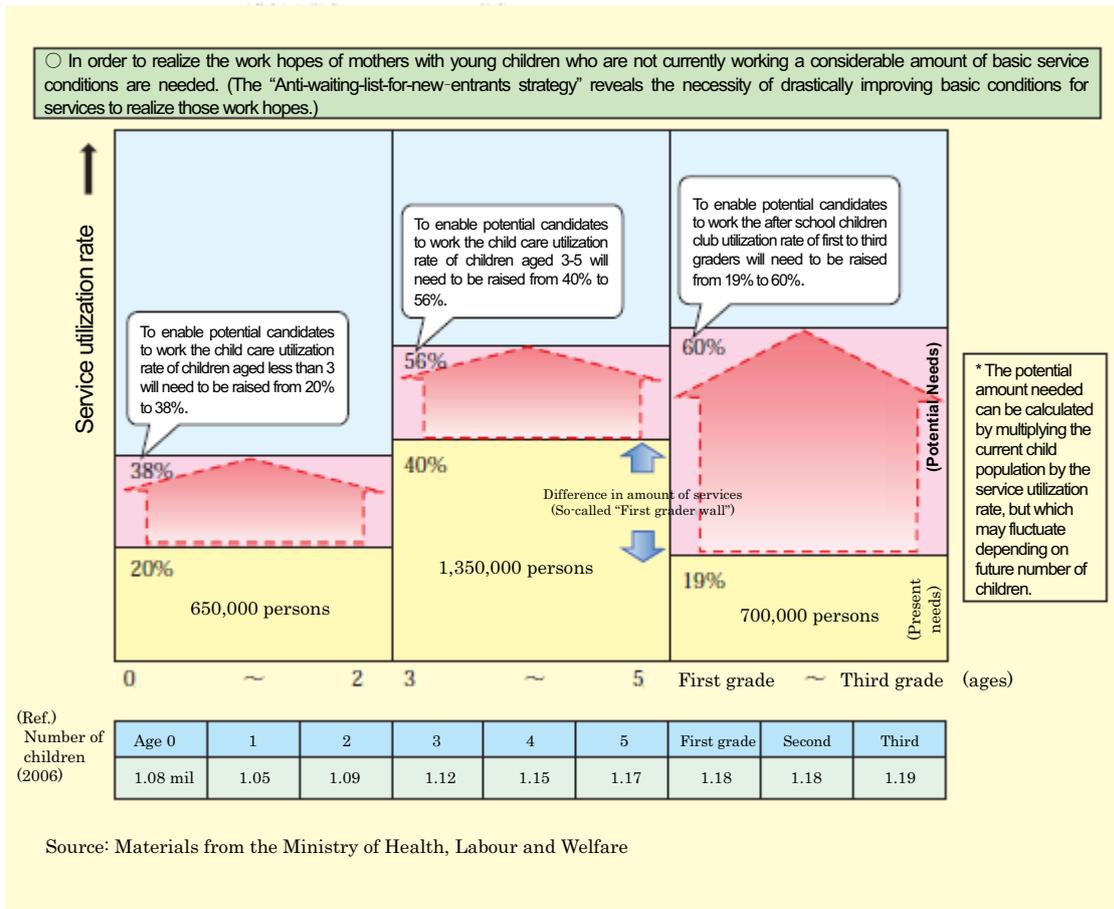
Source: Created at the Office for the Promotion of Policy to Cope with a Declining Birthrate, the Cabinet Office, and based on materials in the "Mid-term Program" toward developing sustainable social security and fiscal resources for that.

2. Improvement of environments enabling secure pregnancies, and child birth and care

(1) Main efforts made in fiscal 2008

- As a result of efforts toward preventing "waiting children" at child care centers, which city areas mainly have an abundance of, the total capacity of child care centers reached 2,121,000 as of April 2008 but the number of children to use them in the same month and same year still remained at 19,550. Based on these recent conditions, in February the same year, the decision was made to implement the "Anti-waiting-list-for-new-entrants strategy" in improving, strengthening and promoting child care measures with regard to both quality and quantity, including in preventing children having to wait for a child care centers etc. In particular, efforts shall be promoted with the focus on the three years of fiscal 2008 to fiscal 2010 as the focused attention and emphasis period.

Dia. Services necessary to realize female work hopes (Anti-waiting-list-for-new-entrants strategy)



- In the “Living Measures” created on October 30, 2008, and in order to improve support for child births and care, the following measures were incorporated with the aim of accelerating the creation of environments that enable more secure pregnancies, and child birth and care in addition to former measures:

<Establishing “Secure Child Fund”>

In accelerating implementation of the “Anti-waiting-list-for-new-entrants strategy” the decision was made to take the following measures: in order to develop the child care centers and approved child institutions needed for 150,000 children support shall be provided to improve expenditure on child care centers etc, new assistance systems as measures for city areas (support measures related to rental articles), approved child care centers and/or domestic child care givers (Child care mamas) during the focused attention and emphasis period up to fiscal 2010. To realize the above mentioned a “Secure Child Fund” amounting to 100 billion yen shall be established in prefectures.

<Provision of “Special Allowances for Supporting Child Care”>

As an urgent measure in fiscal 2008 the decision was made that after taking into consideration the child care burden of households with a number of children during the early childhood education period 36,000 yen would be provided per capita to households with a second or later child belonging to the 3 year period before entering school.

<Enlarging the share of public money used in paying for pregnant women’s physical examinations>

In order to improve the health management of pregnant women and reduce the economic burden on them the decision was made to enlarge the share of public money used in paying for pregnant women’s physical examinations in cities, towns and villages and in order that they can receive them when needed (about 14 times) without worrying about the cost.

- The fiscal 2009 budget incorporated measures for “Realizing a good Work-Life Balance” as well as the promotion of the Anti-waiting-list-for-new-entrants strategy and support for families with brothers and sisters through “Improvement of social bases for supporting child care such as child care services”.
- The Act to Amend Part of the Child Welfare Law etc in providing the following was promulgated in December 2008: domestic child care businesses (Child Care Mamas) and child care support projects shall be positioned within the Child Welfare Law, improved care taken of abused children etc in domestic environments, and making it obligatory for business operators of corporations with 101 or more workers to formulate an action plan to support simultaneous management of work and home lives. (The act was enforced in April 2009, but excluded parts of the institutionalization of domestic child care businesses (Child Care Mamas) and expansion of the scope of obligatory objectives with the performance of the formulation and presentation of action plans by general business operators.)
- As part of improvement of environments enabling secure obstetric medical care to be received the “Japan Obstetric Compensation System” was newly established, and began being implemented in January 2009. Delivery institutions shall pay a premium of 30,000 yen per delivery performed later than the 22nd gestational week, thus leading to the expectation that delivery expenses will be increased. The lump-sum allowance for childbirth and nursing therefore has just been increased by 30,000 yen (i.e., from 350,000 to 380,000 yen) for the abovementioned childbirths too.
- In 2008 a case occurred in Tokyo in which many references were required until an urgently transported pregnant woman was finally taken in by a medical institution, leading to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare holding a “Round-Table Conference on Security and Cooperation of Perinatal Period Medical Care and Emergency Medical Care” six times from November 2008. A report with the following proposals was created in March: perinatal period medical care measure projects to be reviewed, financial support for emergency and perinatal period medical care to be provided, NICU according to regional conditions to be improved, urgent patient transportation systems to be improved, and suggested that the measures should be taken henceforth based on actual regional conditions.

(2) Problems under consideration

- The Special Committee on Measures against Declining Birthrate of the Social Security Council developed a new system where benefits and services related to support for raising next-generation children shall be systematically and universally provided and stated that society as a whole should bear the burden of paying the necessary expenses. After the “Basic Ideas for Designing a New System to Support Raising Next-Generation” was created in May 2008, discussions were held with a focus on new mechanisms for providing child care from September the same year. In February 2009, regarding a new system of support for raising next-generation children, and as an interim summary of discussions with an emphasis on future child care, the first report of the Special Committee on Measures against Declining Birthrate was drawn up. That first report made proposals regarding the following, and based on social environment changes such as the drastic increase in child care needs and the deepening and diversification of those needs: (1) new mechanisms for child care as a new image of the future child care system, (2) improvement of after-school children’s classrooms, (3) support for all families taking care of children, (4) mechanisms of information disclosure and evaluation, and (5) necessity to secure fiscal resources.
- The Labor Policy Council held discussions on reviewing the Child Care and Long-term Care Leave System, and on December 25, 2008, proposals were presented to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare regarding improvement of support measures for simultaneous management of work and home lives. The following measures for improving the work-home simultaneous management support system according to child and long-term care situations were incorporated into the proposals: review of the of work available during child rearing periods, such as making short-hour labor systems and exemption from irregular labors obligatory, realizing ways of enabling fathers that work to rear their children, improving the leave system for taking care of children, and the new establishment of a short-term leave system for long-term care. Henceforth efforts shall be made along the line of those proposals toward review of the Child Care and Long-term Care Leave Law.

- In October 2008, at the “Meeting for Reviewing the System of Approved Child Institutions” that was established based on an agreement between the Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birthrate, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, the following problems with approved child institutions were discussed, with a report then being created in March 2009: (1) improving financial support, (2) eliminating double administration in accounting procedures etc, (3) promoting integrated provision of education and child care, (4) strengthening support function for domestic and regional child care, (5) efforts toward quality improvement.

3. Future measures against declining birthrate

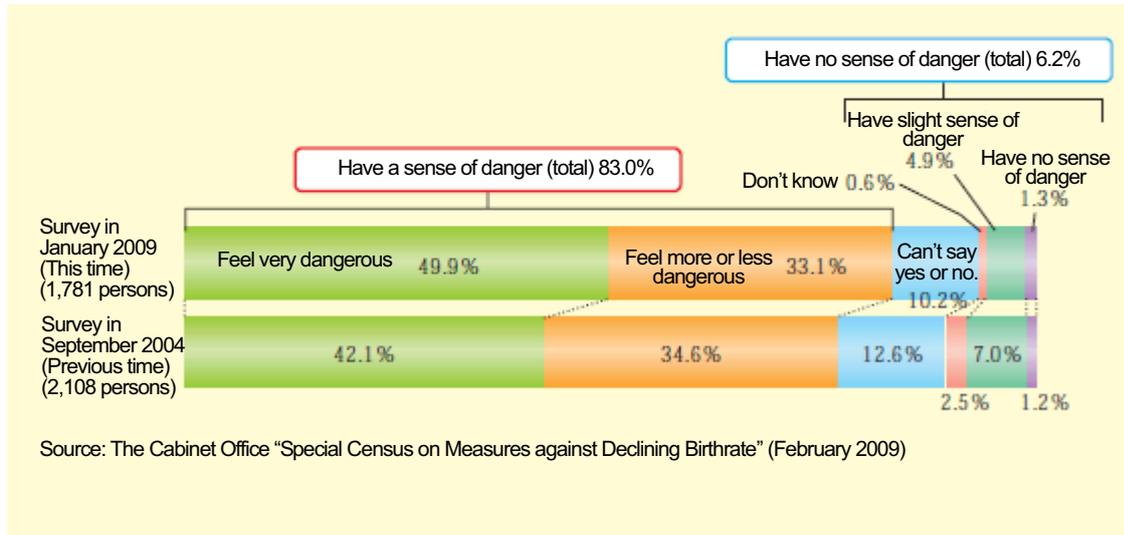
(1) Evaluation of past measures against declining birthrate

- The “Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline” (decided by the Cabinet in July 2004) states that “Based on the status with progress made and affect of the measures, the birthrate trend, and so forth, follow-ups shall be performed every year and reviews made in about 5 years”, and hence the reviews were made obligatory and New Principles formulated in fiscal 2009. In formulating the New Principles, therefore, a survey was performed in evaluating the status with progress made and the affect of the currently enforced measures. In addition, and according to the important strategy, in order to guarantee the effectiveness of the promoted measures against the declining birthrate paying attention to the following six viewpoints and performing inspections and evaluations from the point of view of users would be important: (1) the degree of realization of hopes concerning marriage, child birth and care, (2) diversity of users, (3) regional differences, (4) mutual cooperation in measures, (5) evaluation of quality and quantity, and (6) knowledge dissemination and availability of measures.
- In January 2009 a “Special Census on Measures against Declining Birthrate” was performed, and the results compared with those of the previous census performed (September 2004) when the present Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline was formulated.

<A sense of danger about the future of Japan caused by declining birthrate>

Regarding a sense of danger about the future of Japan caused by the continuously declining birthrate persons answering “Feel a sense of danger (Feel a great sense of danger + Feel a slight sense of danger)” accounted for 83.0% (in the previous survey 76.7%), and “Feel no sense of danger (Feel slight sense of danger + Feel no sense of danger)” 6.2% (in the previous survey 8.2%).

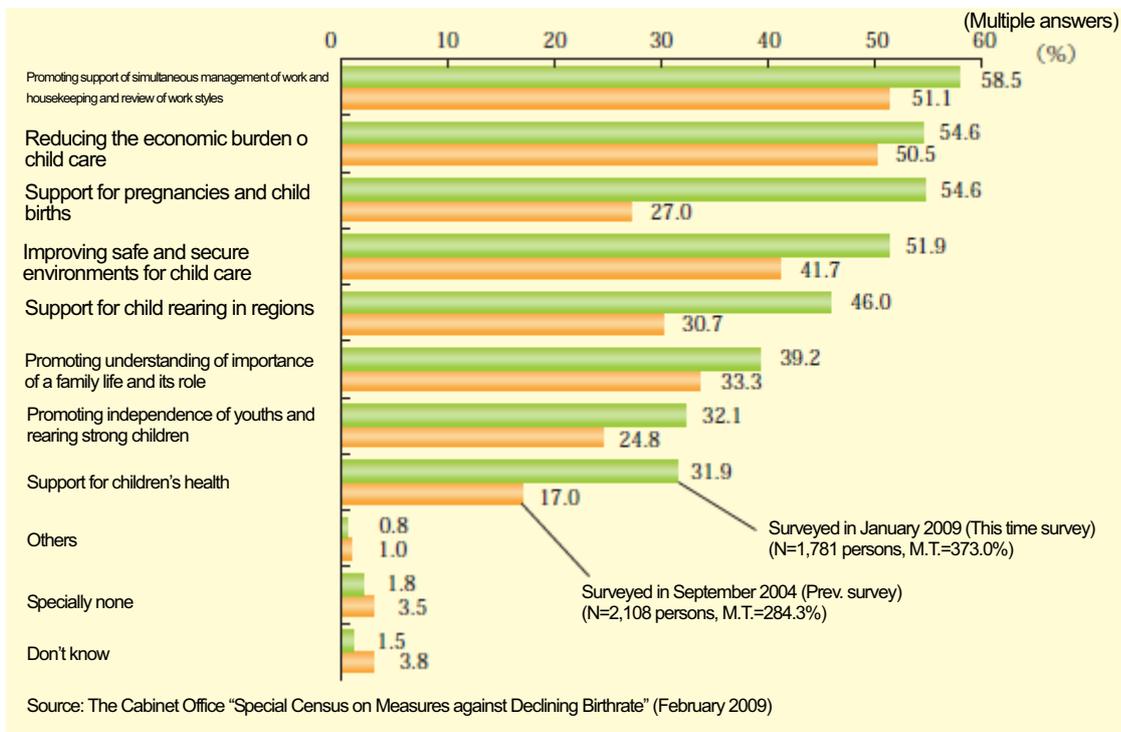
Dia. A sense of danger about the future of Japan regarding birth rates



<Particular policies expected concerning measures against declining birthrate>

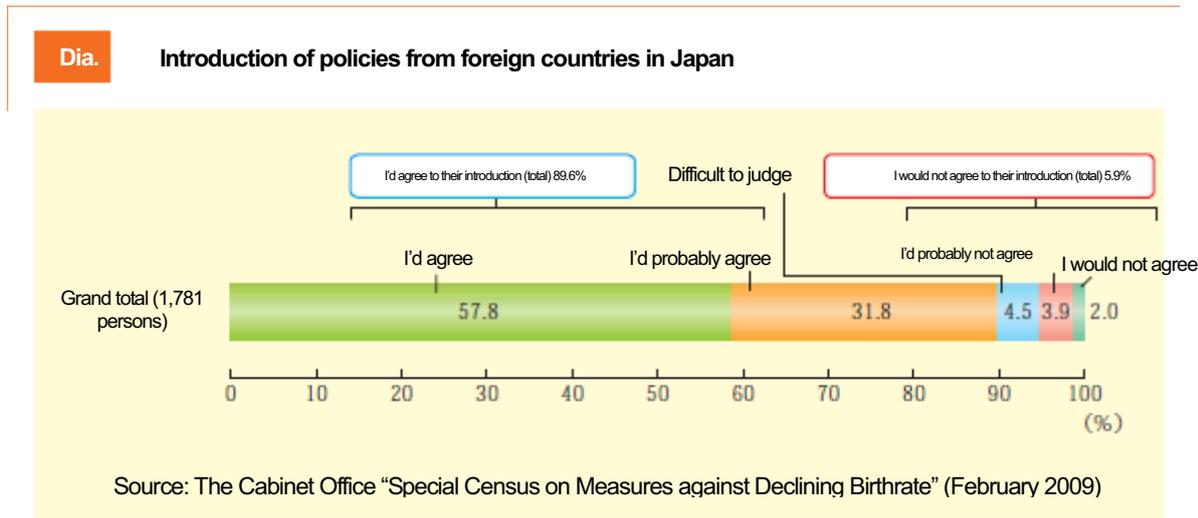
Regarding measures against the declining birthrate the following policies in particular can be expected: "Promotion of support for simultaneous management of work and housekeeping and reviewing of work styles" 58.5% (the previous survey 51.1%), "Reducing the economic burden of child care" 54.6% (50.5%), "Support for pregnancies and child births" 54.6% (27.0%), and "Improving safe and secure environments for child care" 51.9% (41.7%) (multiple answers).

Dia. Particular policies expected concerning measures against declining birthrate



< Introduction of policies from foreign countries in Japan >

Recently in foreign countries cases have been seen where a declining birthrate trend was halted through support being provided for simultaneous management of work and home lives by improving child care services and child care leave systems and so forth. A questionnaire on whether the measures of foreign countries should be introduced in Japan, which could result in additional burdens to be borne, provided the following answers: “I’d agree to their introduction (I’d agree + I’d probably agree)” 98.6% and “I would not agree (I would not agree + I’d probably not agree)” 5.9%.



- Based on the important strategy, since July 2008, a “Meeting for Reviewing Inspections and Evaluations of Promoting Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate” has been held in attempting to improve methods of inspecting and evaluating them as well as performing inspections and evaluations from the point of view of users. In order to understand the actual awareness and feelings of users that cannot be grasped by the progress of and/or statistics on various measures against the declining birthrate, and in cooperation with the abovementioned meeting, “Users' intentions surveys” were conducted from December 2008 to January 2009.

<Achievement degrees of “Image of society to be aimed at” indicated in “Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate”>

Items relatively highly evaluated with achievements (total of “I’d agree” and “I’d only slightly agree”) are:

- (1) A society that provides abundant opportunities to participate in volunteer, nature and social activities, and enable many children to have a variety of experiences. (33.8%)
- (2) A society where economic reasons do not cause persons with the wish and abilities to be educated to give up on studying.
- (3) A society where careful consideration of children and persons with children enable them to be active while feeling secure. (26.9%)

Items lowly evaluated with achievements (total of “I’d not agree very much” and “I’d not agree”) are:

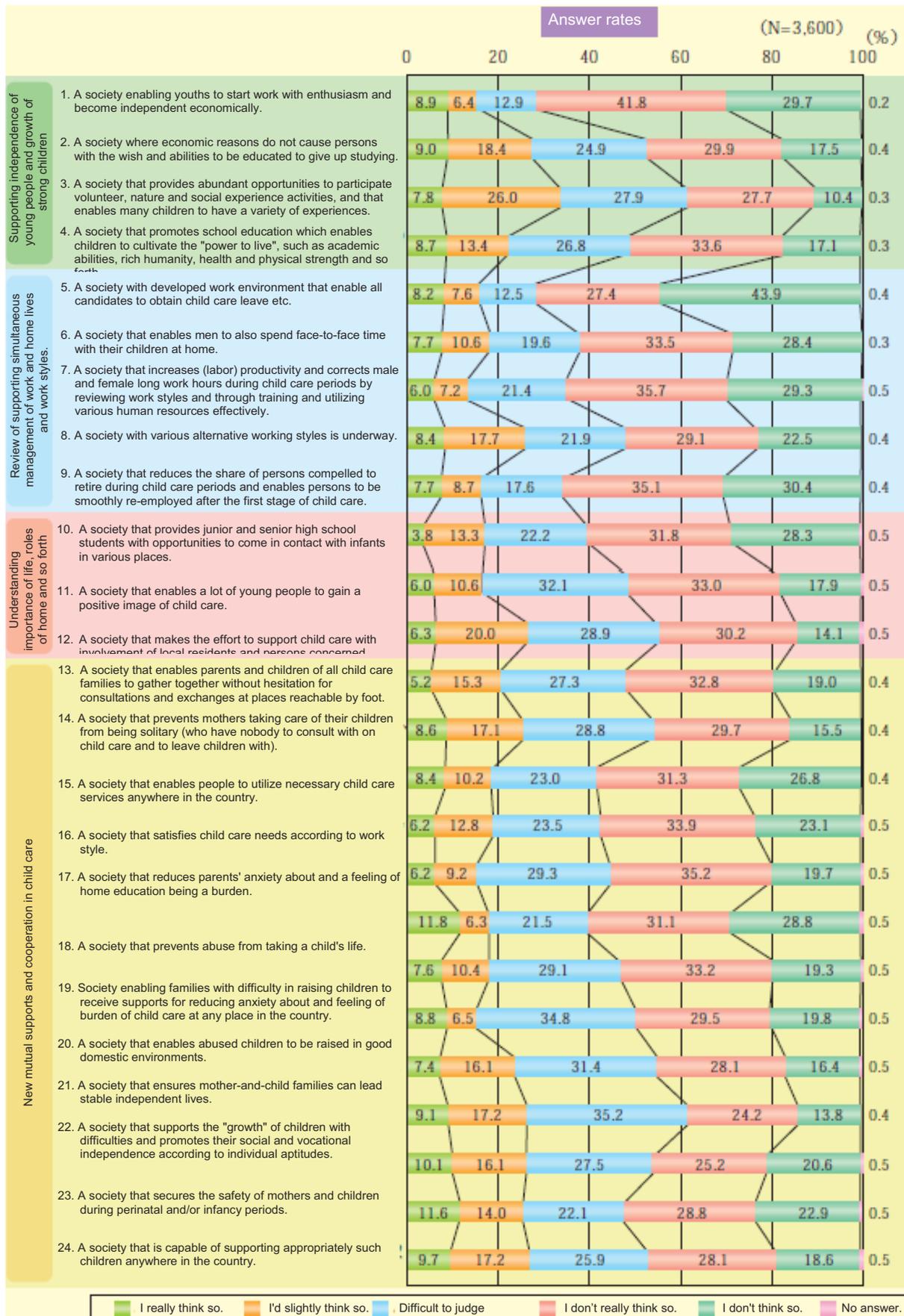
- (1) A society enabling youths to start work with enthusiasm and become independent economically. (71.5%)
- (2) A society where work environments are well developed and enable all candidates to take child care leave etc without anxiety. (71.3%)

- (3) A society where the share of persons forced to retire during the child care period will decrease and people can smoothly restart their careers after completion of the child care stage (65.5%).
- (4) A society where reviewing work styles and effectively training and utilizing diverse types of human resource enables (labor) productivity to increase and the long work hours of men and women during the child care period will be corrected (65.0%).

<Requests regarding efforts in Fundamental Principle of Measures against Declining Birthrate>
Of currently implemented efforts based on the Fundamental Principle of Measures against Declining Birthrate the highest priorities that the national government has been requested to realize are:

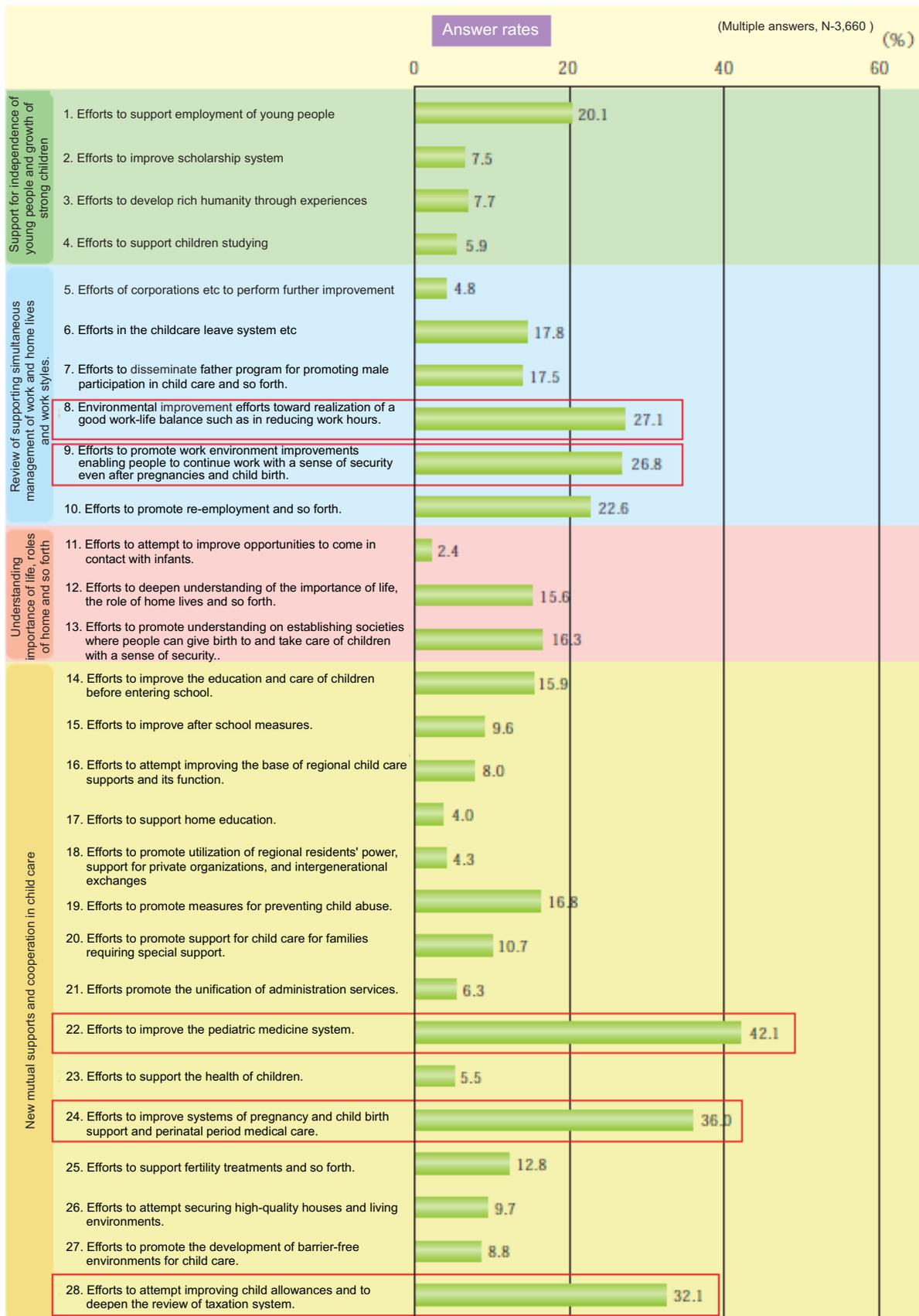
- (1) Efforts toward improving the medical system for children (42.1%),
- (2) Efforts toward improving the support system for pregnancies and child birth and the perinatal medical system (36.0%),
- (3) Efforts toward improving child benefits and examination of the desirable tax system (32.1%),
- (4) Efforts toward improving environments in realizing working styles with a good work-life balance, such as in reducing work hours (27.1%), and
- (5) Efforts toward improving work environments that enable people to remain working with a sense of security even after pregnancies and child birth (26.8%).

Dia. Degree of achievement of ideal society



Note: Sample survey by mail with six autonomous bodies extracted.

Dia. Requested efforts in the Fundamental Principles of Measures to Cope with a Society against a Declining Birthrate (Overall)



Note: Sample survey by mail with six autonomous bodies extracted.

- With regard to the measures incorporated in the Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline a “Corresponding plan in children and raising children” was decided for implementation in order to attempt to effectively promote those measures. The Support Plan is a comprehensive plan with concrete content and goals of measures to be taken over the five years of fiscal 2005 to fiscal 2009, with the number of items included amounting to as many as 130. Review of the main implementation situation in fiscal 2007, the third year of the 5-year plan, reveals that it is making steady progress toward achievement of many of the goals.

A: The following can be listed as main measures whose goal has already been achieved:

- The percentage of women taking child-care leave: 89.7% (goal of the next ten years of 80%)
- Improvement of systems such as the night consultation system at child consultation centers has been performed in a total of 66 prefectures, designated cities, and cities where child consultation centers have been established. (The goal is to implement the system in all the prefectures and designated cities).
- Support for single parent families such as mother-and-child families is being promoted (Support toward integrated independence is being promoted in 99 places.)
(The goal is to install work and independence support centers for fatherless families in all prefectures, designated cities, and core cities)
- Promotion of support projects for specific fertility treatment fees is being performed in 99 prefectures. (The goal is to perform it in all prefectures, designated cities, and core cities)
- Non-step bus 20.3% (goal of 20-25%.)
- Developing barrier-free air planes 59.9% (goal of about 40%.)
- The share of barrier-free equipment on main roads and signalers existing in the vicinity of traveler facilities utilized by 5,000 or more users per day on average (Road 49% (goal of about 50%) and signaler about 81% (goal of about 80%)).

B: The following can be listed as the main items that are making steady progress toward the achievement of the goals:

- Improvement of scholarship projects of the Japan Student Services Organization. The number of financed persons is 10,370,000 (the rate of financing qualified applicants that have met the criteria is 96.6%). (The goal is to make the effort to finance every candidate who has met the criteria.)
- The share of corporations formulating a general business operator action plan and making efforts to train and support next-generation children.
Large businesses: The number of businesses that have presented reports is 13,326 (99.4%). (The goal is 100% of large businesses)
- Promoting extended child care 15,076 places (The goal is 16,200 places)

C: As measures with a large gap between the goal and reality, thus making further efforts necessary, the following can be listed:

- The percentage of men taking child-care leave: 1.56% (the goal over the next ten years is 10%)
- The share of corporations formulating a general business operator action plan and making efforts to support next-generation children.
Small businesses The number of businesses (with 101-300 workers) that have presented reports is 2,184 (7.2%).
[The number of businesses (with less than 300 workers) that have presented reports is 11,449 (0.8%).]
(The goal is 25% of small businesses)
- Promoting dissemination of family-friendly businesses. The number of prize-awarded businesses is 310 (the goal is 700).
- Promoting holiday child care ... 875 places (the goal is 2,200).
- Improving the environment of temporary protection centers capable of dealing with individual cases ... 27 prefectures and designated cities.
(The goal is to perform that in every prefecture and designated city in the country)
- Developing barrier-free ships ... 14.1% (the goal is 50%).

Dia. Primary status of grappling with measures related to the “Corresponding plan in children and raising children”

	Target values of the Corresponding plan in children and raising children (Targets for next five years (Targets for fiscal 2009))	Results of fiscal 2007	
Supporting independence of young people and growth of strong children	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilization of trial employment of youths	Regular employment transfer rate 80% (Target until fiscal 2006)	Regular employment transfer rate 80.2%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of training and utilizing career consultants	About 50,000 (Target until fiscal 2006)	About 47,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of workplace adaptation and fixation	Reducing the turnover rate of new college graduates within 3 years after employment every fiscal year to the ratio of the previous year (Target until FY2006).	The turnover rate within 3 years after employment (Refer to the previous fiscal year) Junior high school graduates 66.7% Junior high school graduates 69.7% Senior high school graduates 47.9% Senior high school graduates 49.5% University graduates 35.9% University graduates 36.6% (March 2005 (March 2004 alumni))
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of the Japan Student Services Organization scholarship project	Making efforts to finance all applicants who meet criteria.	Number of financed persons: 1,037,000 (Lending rate to applicants meeting criteria: 96.6%)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of experience activities for supporting independence of youths	Disseminated all over the country (Achieved by fiscal 2007)	Committed to 55 organizations, where model projects were developed.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of the Junior Eco-Club Project	Number of elementary and junior high school students enrolled at the Junior Eco-Club: 110,000 (Target until fiscal 2006)	167,466
Review of supporting simultaneous management of work and home lives and work styles	<input type="checkbox"/> Rates of women taking child-care leave (The Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline)	80% (Target value for next 10 years)	89.7%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rates of men taking child-care leave (The Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline)	10% (Target value for next 10 years)	1.56%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Diffusion rates of measures for reducing work hours of persons with children before entering elementary school	2.5% (Target value for next 10 years)	19.2%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disseminating and promoting family-friendly businesses	Number of prize-awarded businesses: 700 (Total until fiscal 2009)	310
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting the formulation and implementation of action plans by general business operators	The share of businesses making efforts to formulate action plans and support raising next-generation children Big businesses: 100%	Number of businesses presenting plans (with 301 workers) 13,326 (99.4%)
		The share of businesses making efforts to formulate action plans and support raising next-generation children Small businesses: 25%	Number of businesses presenting plans (with 101 - 300 workers) 2,184 (7.2%) (Number of businesses presenting plans (with 300 or less workers) 11,449 (0.8%))
	<input type="checkbox"/> Correction of long overtime work	Persons working long overtime hours to be decreased by 10% or more. (The share of employees working 60 hours or more per week is 12.2% (2003))	10.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of taking annual paid leave	The share of workers taking annual paid leave per capita in a business is at least 55% or more on average.	47.7%	
New mutual supports and cooperation in child care	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of regional child care bases.	Number of regional child care bases to be improved is 6,000. (To be implemented at about 60% of junior high school districts in the country) * Total of plaza-type, center-type and children's hall-type bases.	4,386
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of temporary and specific child care	9,500 (To be implemented at about 90% of junior high school districts in the country)	8,140
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of short-term child care support projects	Number of short stay projects to be promoted is 870. (To be implemented at about 90% of children's institution, mother and child life support facilities, and infant homes of the country.)	584
		Promotion of the twilight stay project to be implemented at 560 places. (To be implemented at about 60% of children's institution, mother and child life support facilities, and infant homes of the country.)	301
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of support family centers	710 (To be implemented at about 1/4 of cities, towns and villages in the country.)	540
	<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the number of children taken in by child care centers	2,150,000 children	2,120,000 children
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of after-school children's classrooms	17,500 facilities (To be implemented at about 3/4 of elementary school districts in the country.)	16,685 facilities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of extended child care	16,200 facilities (To be implemented at about 70% of child care centers in the country.)	15,076 facilities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of holiday child care	2,200 facilities (To be implemented at about 10% of child care centers in the country.)	875 facilities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of night child care	140 cities (To be implemented at about 50% of cities with 300,000 residents of the country.)	74 cities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of temporary custody for support of infant health (daycare for convalescent children)	1,500 places (To be implemented at about 40% of cities, towns and villages of the country.)	767 places
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of providing learning opportunities and information related to domestic education	Lectures on domestic education shall be given at all the cities, towns and villages of the country.	953 cities, towns and villages (Total number of the cities, towns and villages of the country: 1,793)	

Note: The inclusion in the results of fiscal 2007 of the number of “cities, towns and villages” and “places” that are based on decisions on grants etc may cause changes to occur.

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	Target values of the Corresponding plan in children and raising children (Targets for next five years (Targets for fiscal 2009))	Results of fiscal 2007	
New mutual supports and cooperation in child cares	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishing abuse prevention networks	All cities, towns and villages	1,705 cities, towns and villages (the number of cities, towns, and villages where the Regional Council of Countermeasures for Children Requiring Protection or Abuse Prevention Network have been established) (The percentage in cities, towns and villages throughout the country being 94.1%)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Understanding status of all infants, such as ones not having received an infant medical examination yet by four months after birth.	Performed in all cities, towns and villages	1,244 cities, towns and villages (the "Project of Visiting all households with a child within 4 months after birth" newly established in 2007 (Hello baby project) (The percentage in all the cities, towns, and villages throughout the country being 71.8%))
	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing systems such as nighttime services of child consultation centers	Performed in all prefectures and designated cities.	66 prefectures and designated cities, and cities with child consultation centers established
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of cooperative medical institutions for dealing with abuse	Performed in all prefectures and designated cities.	55 prefectures and designated cities, and cities with child consultation centers established
	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment improvement of temporary protection facilities capable of individually dealing with children.	Performed in all prefectures and designated cities.	27 prefectures and designated cities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Development of Child and Family Support Centers	100 places (2 were established in prefectures and about 1 in designated cities)	67
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of scale reduction of facilities.	845 places (in children's institutions, small size care is available in about 1 place per institution)	503
	<input type="checkbox"/> Expansion of foster parents	Of children left at children's institutions, infant homes, and with foster parents the share of children entrusted to foster parents was 15%	9.9%
		Total number of persons who have been registered as a special foster parent is 500 persons.	428 persons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of independence support homes	60 places (performed in about one place in every prefecture or designated city)	47 places
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of support for one-parent families such as mother-and-child families - Promotion of support toward comprehensive independence	Mother-and-child Family Employment and independence Support Centers were established in all the prefectures, designated cities and core cities.	99 places
	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional support for children with disabilities and their families.	Promotion of training and instruction project for commuting severely multiple handicapped children (persons) Improvements of about 280 places	276 places
	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated support related to developmental disorders	Development of support centers for persons with autism or developmental disorder in 60 prefectures and designated cities (To be achieved by fiscal 2007)	61 places
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of infant emergency medical care systems	404 districts	338 districts
	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of puberty health measures etc	Reducing teenage abortion rates	7.8 (per 1000 people) (the previous fiscal year: 8.7 (per 1000 people))
Reducing teenage venereal disease infection rates		The number of cases of chlamydia trachomatis according to fixed point reports was 29,939 (The number of occurrences per fixed point was 31.65) (The previous fiscal year: 32,112 (The number of occurrences per fixed point was 33.95))	
<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of perinatal period medical networks	All prefectures (To be achieved by fiscal 2007)	43 prefectures	
<input type="checkbox"/> Development of consultation centers specializing in fertility treatment	95 prefectures and cities (established in all the prefectures and designated and core cities)	66 prefectures and cities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of specific fertility treatment cost support projects	95 prefectures and cities (established in all the prefectures and designated and core cities)	99 prefectures and cities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of barrier-free public transportation.	The percentage of barrier-free facilities (whose bumps have been eliminated) in tourist facilities (railroad stations, air passenger terminal complexes, etc.) that 5,000 or more people use in a day on average, *In principle, 100% (To be achieved by fiscal 2010)	67.5%	
	The share of barrier-free vehicles etc of public transportation *Railway vehicles and tracked vehicles About 30% (To be achieved by fiscal 2010)	26.5%	
	The share of barrier-free vehicles etc of public transportation *Non-step buses 20~25% (To be achieved by fiscal 2010)	20.3%	
	The share of barrier-free vehicles etc of public transportation *Ships About 50% (To be achieved by fiscal 2010)	14.1%	
	The share of barrier-free vehicles etc of public transportation *Airplanes About 40% (To be achieved by fiscal 2010)	59.9%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of barrier-free walking spaces	The share of barrier-free main roads and signalers around tourist facilities with the daily average number of users being 5,000 persons or more *Roads About 50% (To be achieved by fiscal 2008)	49%	
	The share of barrier-free main roads and signalers around tourist facilities with the daily average number of users being 5,000 persons or more *Signalers About 80% (To be achieved by fiscal 2008)	About 81%	

Note: The inclusion into the results of fiscal 2007 of the numbers of "cities, towns and villages" and "places" that are based on decisions on grants etc may cause changes to occur.

(2) Toward future measures against declining birthrate

- Five years have passed since the Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline was formulated, and hence the decision was made to create new principles after review of the former within 2009. In order to contribute to the creation a draft Declining birthrate society countermeasures outline, therefore, the “Project Team on Sweeping Review of Measures against Declining Birthrate” was established, where discussions are being performed toward promotion of measures against the declining birthrate.

Dia.

Project Team on Sweeping Review of Measures against Declining Birthrate

On “Project Team on Sweeping Review of Measures against Declining Birthrate”
(January 2009 -)

○ Purpose

- In order to contribute to the creation of new “Fundamental Principles of Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate”, and under the authority of the State Minister in Charge of the Declining Birthrate, a “Project Team on Sweeping Review of Measures against Declining Birthrate” was established to listen to opinions of specialists and each class of people.
- From the point of view of the child-rearing generation and users, discussions shall be performed without being captured in any existing framework. Specialists (parties on the spot, persons of learning and experience, related organizations etc) shall be invited according to the theme of each meeting and hearings and opinion exchanges performed.

○ Member

- Tetsuya Ando Representative Trustee, Non-Profit Organization “Fathering Japan”
- Kazuyo Katsuma Economic Critic
- Shigeki Matsuda Chief Researcher, Dai-ichi Life Research Institute Inc.
- Kasumi Miyajima News Bureau, Nippon Television Network Corporation
- Hiroki Sato Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo (Chairman, Meeting for Reviewing Inspections and Evaluations of Promoting Measures to Cope with Society with Declining Birthrate)

○ Themes to be discussed

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| [Love affairs and marriages] | : 1 st (Feb. 10, 2009) |
| [Support of employment and independence of youths] | : 2 nd (Feb. 24, 2009) |
| [Fertility treatment] | : 3 rd (Mar. 9, 2009) |
| [Work and life balance/work styles/supporting child care by fathers] | : 4 th (Mar. 9, 2009) |
- (* The following are inconsecutive.)

[One parent households etc] [(Infant) education/ public education] [child care service, after-school measures]
[obstetric, perinatal and pediatric medicine] [Family, region, housing, and environment] [Administration, system, tax system, finance
etc][Other problems]