

Section 2 Study aimed to build a ‘New System for Children and Childcare’

In order to examine establishment of a comprehensive and centralized system of support for development of the next generation, including the integration of nursery schools and kindergartens, in January 2010 (H22), ‘Review Conference of the new system for children and childcare’ and the ‘working groups’ was established, consolidating the basic direction by around June of the same year, reported to the Birthrate Declining Society Countermeasures Conference.

Based on the interviews that were conducted in the ‘working groups’, to childcare experts, childcare affiliate, affiliate kindergarten, NPOs, local governments, labor and management organizations, organizations of parents, in ‘Review Conference the new system for children and childcare’, in April 2010 ‘basic direction of the new system for children and childcare’ was compiled, and while further discussions, in June of the same year, the ‘Outline of basic systems of the new system for children and childcare’ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘basic system draft outline’) has been determined by the Birthrate Declining Society Countermeasures Conference.

In the basic system draft outline, the support life balance society of hope and work come true society to ensure the rearing environment of good quality to all children, to cherish the child, raising a child, childbirth, and the work can be fulfilling life to realize a dynamic society and the creation of social and new employment, in promoting women's employment has been raised for the purpose.

Support for children and childcare by society as a whole, the provision of quality service are needed to basically user-friendliness (household and parenting children), at home raising children, all children, residents who assume municipality at the center (cities, towns and villages) it is assumed that under the policy and the implementation of services to meet the diverse needs, such as centralized promotion system of government, to build a system.

Based on the basic system draft outline, from September 2010, under the ‘working groups’ of the ‘New system Children and Parenting Review Conference’, gathering the concerned parties, such as regional organizations, experts, stakeholders daycare and kindergartens, labor representatives, and the children raising parties, three working team, the ‘Basic system working teams’, ‘Integrated protection working youth teams’, ‘Children Guidelines (tentative name) working team’ were held, with discussions being underway about the specific content of the system.

Until now, with debate being carried out in the direction of what is needed for ‘the new system for children and childcare (hereinafter referred to as the ‘new system’)’ the following benefits and projects were managed by the working teams:

- Child allowance (cash benefits)
- Business and community childcare support (tentative name) (Businesses, such as custody and temporary childcare support community based projects that help people with children under the age of 3, who are raising children at home without using the nursery, etc.)
- Children Garden Benefits (tentative name) (Benefits for users of the children gardens (tentative name), and other general facilities (tentative name), that meet objective criteria of kindergartens, nurseries, and etc.)
- Regional-type childcare benefits (tentative name) (Benefits for users of other small nurseries (tentative name) children gardens, family childcare (care nanny))
- After school clubs for children (Business to provide a place for children to spend time and play after school)

Regarding the youth integrated protection, the mechanism, such as: providing cohesive quality school education and childcare, quantitative expansion of childcare, is considered in order to enhance the nurturing support at home.

(1) Integration of the system provisions

- Performing the Municipal Plan for Children and Childcare Support Services to ensure the provisional system and strategically maintain the school education and daycare in the regions
- Introduction of a specified system facilitating the entry of various business entities into the nursery business
- Creation of integrated kindergarten benefits pertaining to the nursery-school education

(2) Integration of the facilities

- Creation of comprehensive childcare centers is to provide assistance in an integrated manner for school education and childcare, as well as for home upbringing.

In addition, the 'Promotion of Social Security Reform' (Cabinet decision December 14, 2010), and institutional reforms to strengthen stability and social security, advancing the study in an integrated manner for tax reform to achieve fiscal consolidation and at the same time ensuring stable funding need is shown, measures to support children and young people as child-rearing measures to be addressed on a priority basis in it, towards the early submission of the new system children and childcare bill (tentative name), is to be examined rapidly.

With respect to the institutional design of the new system, according to the discussion of social security reform, it has been decided to proceed with the study team will continue working to hold.

Figure 1-1-5:

Regarding the New System for Children and Childcare

Basic Concept

- Support for Children and Childcare by the Society as a Whole, Ensuring Good Quality Growth Environment to All Children
 - Support to all children and families in childcare (such as child allowance, temporary daycare)
 - Integration of kindergartens and nursery schools (Children Gardens (tentative name))
 - Share the burden of the expenses by the society as a whole
 - Parties concerned (participation of local governments, labor and management organizations, childcare organizations, NPOs, supporters of childcare (Children and Childcare Conference (tentative name)))
- Uninterrupted Service and Security Benefits
 - Providing personal service without interruption from pregnancy to childbirth, to daycare, until after school measures.
- Services that meet the diverse needs of the regions
 - Variety of daycare services to meet the needs
- Local governments (municipalities) centralization
- Promotion System of government · Centralized Funding
 - Promotion system and centralized funding for each disparate system of government
- Implementation of Work-Life Balance

Figure 1-1-6:

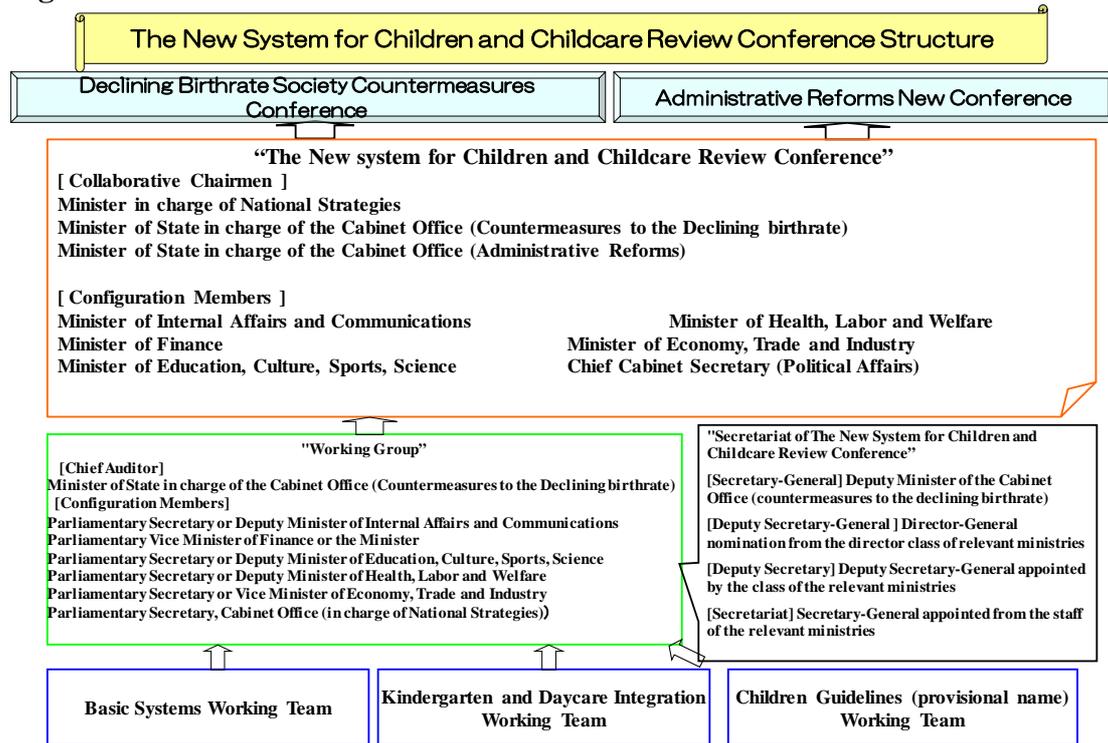


Figure 1-1-7:

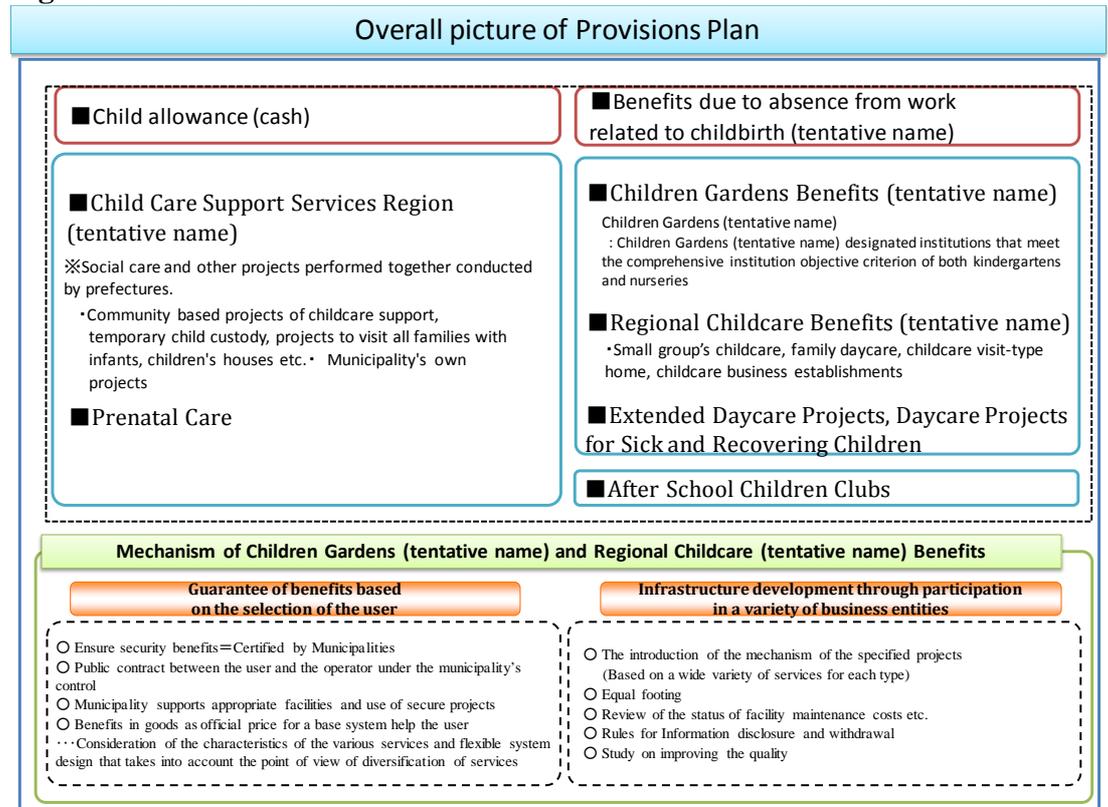


Figure 1-1-8:

About the Specific Mechanisms of Integration of Nurseries and Kindergartens

