

**Chapter 1 In Pursuit of a Society Where Parenting is supported
and Young People can grow in Confidence****Section 1 Engaging the Whole Community to Support Children and
Ensuring Education Opportunities****1. Engaging the Whole Community to Support Children**

(New child allowance system)

With regards to cash benefits for child-rearing households, the “Act for Amending Part of the Child Allowance Act (Act No.24 of 2012)” was established in March 2012 and the new child allowance system came into force on April 1, 2012.

2. Supporting Child Learning

1) Free tuition for public high schools and tuition fund for private high schools, etc.

In order to reduce the burden on education expenses, the “Act on free tuition fee at public high schools and high school enrollment support fund” (Act No. 18, 2010) was established on March 31, 2010, and implemented from the 1st of April of the same year.

2) Enhancement of Scholarship Loan

In FY 2012, the government introduced the “income contingent repayment type interest-free Scholarship loan ” which is targeted at students from families with financial difficulties and grants them a moratorium on payments until they obtain a certain level of income after graduation.

The project provides interest-free Scholarship loan for 383,000 students, an increase of 25,000 over the previous year (of which, 15,000 students are new) and for a total of 1.339 million students, an increase of 67,000 over the previous year including the interest-free Scholarship loan and low-interest Scholarship loan.

3) Improving the Educational Environment of the School

In the new Course of Study, aiming for nurturing the children’s “zest for life” by balancing academic prowess, virtue, and healthy body, improving the teaching contents and increasing the number of hours of tuition, as the national curriculum standards, have become fully implemented in April 2011 for elementary schools, and since April 2012 for junior high schools, and yearly implemented for new student in high school since 2013.

Section 2 To tackle employment and self support with eagerness**1. Addressing the Support for Independent Life Style and Employment of
Youths**

1) Implementation of Non-regular Employment Measures

In order to provide necessary measures by mode of non-regular employment such as dispatched workers, fixed-term contract workers, part-time workers and others, and to contribute to a sustainable development

of Japanese economy, a vision concerning non-regular employment issues was developed. In addition, in response to this vision, a report was prepared at the “review meeting for fundamentally strengthening capacity building of non-regular workers”. In the future, based on the orientation of the report, public vocational training will be implemented to comprehensively support the efforts of businesses for career progression and in consideration of the characteristics of non-regular workers.

2) Employment Support for Youths

By actively promoting a range of measures including the promotion of giving regular employment to casual employees, etc. also in FY 2013, the government aims to achieve a society where young people on whose shoulders the future of our country lies can work in a confident and convinced manner and demonstrate their will and abilities

- (1) Career development and employment support measures and ongoing comprehension ranging from school level to workplace settlement
- (2) Support for new graduates and already graduated
- (3) Development of employment systems and diverse career path corresponding to multiple ways
- (4) Promoting skills awareness for young people
- (5) Development of One-Stop Service Centers for Young People (also known as Job Cafes)

3) Support based on the Act for the Promotion of Development Support for Children and Young People

Based on **the Act for the Promotion of Development Support for Children and Young People** (Act No.71 of 2009) enforced in April 2010 as the “project to develop a community council system to support children and young people” aimed to promote the establishment of a community council system to support children and young people, the establishment and operation of model projects (15 areas in FY 2012) and the workshop projects (19 implementing bodies in FY 2012) aimed to form community support networks which serve as the foundation of the council are implemented.

Section 3 Providing an opportunity to learn the necessity in social life

1. Improve Understanding for The Importance of Life, The Role in The Family, etc.

1) Spreading education and awareness about the pregnancy and the roles of, household and family

Education designed to deepen the understanding of the roles of a household and a family focused on the relevant subjects is provided at elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools depending on the respective developmental stage.

The Courses of Study were revised in March 2008 for the elementary and junior high schools and in March 2009 for the high schools for enhancing the educational content, including the more emphasis on practical and experiential learning aimed to raise awareness of the roles of a household and a family.

2) Providing the opportunity to interact with infants

The measures widening the opportunities for mainly secondary and high school students to meet and come face to face with infants are promoted, using the public institutions such as nursery schools, child centers and health centers.

3) Promotion of initiatives in schools, family and regions

At each level of school education: elementary school, junior high school, and high school, education for a better understanding of parenting is being conducted, while aiming at mutual collaboration with related subjects, moral education, the Period of integrated study and special activities.

As an example of regional or family efforts, the government supports the voluntarily implemented efforts

by communities related to education at home, so that parents understand the importance of life and the importance for married couples to raise children together.

4) Promoting understanding through the 'Family Week' and 'Family Day', etc.

Efforts focusing on the 'Family Week' and 'Family Day' promote the understanding and publicity throughout the whole society, implementing enlightenment projects, and nurturing life from one generation to the next, aim to reaffirm the importance of the regions and the families to support child-rearing.

5) Survey and Research on the Family Formation

The "survey on childcare support policies of the local governments across the country" was conducted in FY 2012.

2. Fostering Rich Humanity through Learning and Experience

1) The Development of the Environment for Children Training by the Whole Community

In order to improve the capability of the family and the community by being conscious of the role and responsibility of the school, family and community and watching and rearing children, the government is promoting nationwide efforts for supporting education with the participation of community people including the establishment of regional School Support Regional Headquarters, After-School Classes for Children and support for education at home.

2) Promotion of Consumer Education

In order to promote consumer education in a comprehensive and integrated manner, the "Act on Promotion of Consumer Education" was promulgated on August 22, 2012 and put into force on December 13 of the same year.

3) Experience activities in regions and schools

(1) Promotion of experience in regions

Afterschool Classes for children was implemented to provide opportunities such as learning activities, cultural and artistic experience activities, sports activities and activities to exchange with local residents.

(2) Promotion of experience in schools

Implementing the "Promotion rich experiential activities" in elementary schools, to foster abundant human nature and social nature of children, the efforts in school education to promote group accommodation activities in natural surroundings are being supported.

4) Culture and Art Activities

Efforts to nurture the imagination and rich aesthetic sense of children are being promoted at elementary and junior high schools, where children can enjoy the performance arts by arts organizations and artists, culture experience workshops.

5) Place of Contact with Nature

Under the guidance and cooperation of rangers for nature conservation and volunteers, opportunities to learn the manners in nature, and conservation of the natural environment to the playing children have been provided.

6) Experience of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and cities and rural communities exchange experiences

As part of education program to help children develop willingness to learn, sense of consideration for other people, social morality and others and grow healthy and strong, the government promote the activities of elementary school children in rural communities, such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries experiences and

home-stay at fishermen's or farmer's house activities, as well as the 'Children Rural Communities Exchange Project' accommodation experiences.

7) Securing Playing Areas for Children (Parks, Waterfronts, Forests)

Parks in urban areas which are expected to serve as playgrounds for children are being provided with a variety of sports facilities and playing facilities so that children may practice sports and have a good time.

Chapter 2 In pursuit of a society which can realize hopes of pregnancy, birth and childcare

Section 1 For Pregnancy and Birth at Ease

1. Ensuring Support System for Pregnancy and Birth, and Perinatal Care System

1) Alleviation of Economic Burdens Owing to the Gynaecological Check-up and Childbirth

In order to enhance health management for pregnant women and reduce their financial burden, in the second supplementary budget for FY 2008 and in the supplementary budget for FY 2010, the support for their prenatal care visits was expanded to further include 9 visits which were not subject to municipal support so that all pregnant women can have the necessary gynaecological check-up (about 14 visits) (as of December 2011, more than 14 visits are subject to subsidy in all the municipalities) and in the fourth supplementary budget for FY 2011, it was decided to continue the public subsidy in FY 2012.

In 2012, for recurrent miscarriages, such as miscarriages is repeated two or more times, so called 'recurrent pregnancy loss', awareness raising and consultation support by placing counselors specializing in infertility in counseling centers will be performed.

2) Development of Perinatal Care System, Securing Perinatal Medical Transport System

(1) Enhancement of perinatal care system

It establishes the general obstetrics medical center and regional obstetrics medical center supporting the same for providing appropriate medical care for high risk pregnant women and new-born babies, etc. and addresses the enhancement of the perinatal care system by securing cooperation with the regional farrowing facility.

(2) Securing Perinatal Emergency Transport System

With the development of general obstetrics medical center and regional obstetrics medical center for securing perinatal emergency transport system, it has been possible to improve the maternal mortality rate and neonatal mortality rate.

3) The Japan Obstetrics Compensation System for Cerebral Palsy

Since January 2009, the "obstetrics compensation system" has been started to improve environment where pregnant women can receive obstetric care in a confident manner.

4) Raising Awareness for Maternity Mark

For raising awareness, the mark is promoted not only through a variety of opportunities including the website, but also by requesting public transport, workplaces and eating places to cooperate for the efforts.

Fig. 2-2-1 Maternity mark



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

5) Development of Counselling and Support System (Pregnant Women, Childbirth Artificial Abortion, etc.)

It offers counselling and support using the maternal and child health project such as the home guidance for the headaches like pregnancy and child birth, artificial abortion, etc. and assists the consultation in the 'Women health center'. (Women's Health Support Centers: 42 municipalities in 2011).

2. Support to Tackle Fertility Treatment

1) Specialized Fertility Counselling Center

The medical specialists implement the 'specialized fertility counselling center' for carrying out (1) medical consultation for infertility and (2) psychological consultation for infertility, etc. in the health facilities playing core roles in the region, etc. (60 municipalities in FY 2011)

2) Alleviation of Economic Burden Due to Fertility Treatment, etc.

Considering the high cost for in vitro fertilization and micro insemination, a part of the cost for these treatments is subsidized since FY 2004 as part of the measures to support the next generation with a reduced financial burden.

The benefit amount has been increased (up to 100,000 yen per 1 treatment, twice a year and up to 5 years) since 2007 and the income restriction has been deregulated (up to 7.3 million yen in the combined income of a married couple). Since FY 2009, the benefit amount has been further increased up to 150,000 yen per treatment and since FY 2011, the number of the first year treatment has been increased to three in a year (5 years in total and not exceeding 10 treatments in total) (payment of benefits in FY 2010: 96,458).

Section 2 Facilitating Childhood education and nursery care service to whoever wants

1. Elimination of the Number of Waiting Children and Improvement in The Quality of Child Education, Childcare

1) Elimination of Child Day Care Centre Waiting

In the budget for FY 2013, day care operating costs to cover the increase in day care capacity by about 70,000 children have been secured to meet day care needs in terms of quantity.

In addition, the “Relief Children’s Fund” provided for prefectures in the second supplementary budget for FY 2008 was given a boost for the development of day care centers using the reserve fund of FY 2012 and the project implementation deadline was extended until the end of FY 2013. Furthermore, in the supplementary budget for FY 2012, there was an increase in the amount for the development of day care as well as childcare support in communities and the project implementation deadline was extended. The supplementary budget includes a range of further efforts, encompassing securing of new graduates of the centers of children’s nurse educations and subsidies to a variety of training for the continued employment of children’s nurses which are aimed at securing personnel for child nursing, establishment of the “children’s nurse and day care center support centers” to help potential children’s nurses get employed, support for day care workers at uncertified day care facilities to acquire the registered children’s nurse qualification, provision of loans for people getting enrolled in a center of children’s nurse educations and improvement in treatment of children’s nurses.

2) Providing Diverse Childcare

It continues to promote extended day care, night child care, and child care during and after sickness project and assists in the expenses necessary to change a non-registered day care facility to a registered day care facility as the child resources of the region, for corresponding with diverse child care needs.

3) Promoting Family Day Care (Childcare Mother)

In order to cope with the increase in day care demand, for municipalities (while cooperating with childcare nannies and other nursery centers, nurturing a small number of pre-school children in homes of caregivers, etc.) to implement family childcare business, the necessary expenses are provided (budget target number for 2012 is 10,000 children). In addition, ‘group type small-scale nursery businesses’ with caregivers for many families in the same location are being carried out since FY 2011.

4) Improving the Quality of Early Education and Childcare

In order to promote the school evaluation in accordance with the characteristics of kindergartens, including third-party evaluation, ‘Guidelines for school evaluation in kindergartens’ were revised in November 2011. Third-party evaluation business for nursery centers is promoted aiming to improve the service from the perspective of children.

5) New Child and Childcare Support System

The bills were submitted to the ordinary Diet session in 2012 and after amendment including the improvement of the certified child’s gardens through Diet deliberations, the “Child and Childcare Support Act”, “Act to Amend a Part of the Act on the Promotion of a Comprehensive Provision of Education and Daycare for Preschool Children” and the “Act on the Development of Related Acts Derived from the Enforcement of the Child and Childcare Support Act and the Act to Amend a Part of the Act on the Promotion of a Comprehensive Provision of Education and Daycare for Preschool Children” were enacted on August 10 of the same year and promulgated on August 22 of the same month.

The new system will be officially enforced in April 2015 at the earliest in time with the rise in the consumption tax to 10% scheduled to take place in 2015.

2. Initiatives for After School Measures

1) Implementation of ‘After-School Plan for Children (After School Children’s Club, After-School Classes for Children)’

In FY 2012, 10,098 After-School Classes for Children and 21,085 after school children clubs for children were implemented.

2) Enhancement of After School Children Clubs

To deal with potential needs of job seekers and enable those who wish to use After School Children Clubs to receive the services, the number of children to be accepted will be increased.

Section 3 To save children’s health and safety, to secure access to medical care

1. Securing Children Medical System Ensuring the Pediatric Care System

1) Enhancement of Pediatric Care

In the successive revisions of medical treatment fees in recent years, a focused evaluation on the costs of pediatric care has been conducted and in the revision of medical treatment fees in FY 2012, in addition to the evaluation of the intensive care unit (ICU) for general public and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) which are currently available, new measures have been taken to evaluate pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) which is specific for children.

2) Medical Treatment Research Project for Chronic Specified Diseases in Children, etc.

For the pediatric chronic diseases, the establishment and dissemination of treatment is addressed and the pediatric chronic disease treatment research project which assists a part of the burden of medical treatment expenses, is implemented for contributing to the alleviation of the burden due to medical treatment expenses of the home patients.

2. Protecting Health and Safety of the Children

1) Vaccination

A “bill for the revision of Preventive Vaccination Act” aimed to add diseases (human papillomavirus infection, pneumococcal infection in infants and Hib infection, etc.) was submitted to the 183rd ordinary Diet sessions and the bill was enacted in March 2013 and enforced from April 1.

2) Enhancement of Mental Health Care

In order to deal with a variety of mental problems of children, mental health care and developmental disorder of abused children, a project to this end was undertaken for three years as a model project to build a support system in coordination with medical care institutions and health and welfare organizations centered around key hospitals in prefectures. Since FY 2011, in light of the outcome of the present project, the project has been officially underway as the “network project for children’s mental health treatment”

3) Distributing Scientific Knowledge Related to Sex and Appropriate Education for the Developmental Stages

For carrying out appropriate sex education in school, the government holds training which aims at spreading and leadership training in each region..

4) Promotion of “Shokuiku (diet and nutrition education)”

In March 2011, a new basic plan was adopted for the following five years from FY 2011 and FY 2015.

5) Child Injury Prevention

(1) The Project for Child Injury Prevention

Since FY 2010, efforts to raise awareness in parents of child injury prevention are made within the project for child injury prevention by distributing pamphlets about preventing children (especially, infants) from injury in the home at parents' classes and group health checks.

(2) Implementing Safety Measures of the Play Ground

With respect to playground equipment in urban parks, the “guidelines for securing safety of playground equipment in urban parks” which show a basic idea for securing safety was revised in August 2008 and efforts are being made to keep facility administrators informed of the measures.

(3) Promoting Safety Measures of Buildings

Appropriate maintenance and necessary repair works of special buildings used by a number of people are promoted through preparation of maintenance plans and periodical submission of the result of investigation by owners of those buildings.

6) Preventing from Harmful Criminals

(1) Implementing the Efforts for Protecting Children from Crime

In FY 2011, in order to receive the education children at ease, by developing a mechanism to make effective use of volunteer for school safety, as a whole community, the system to watch over the safety of children is being enhanced.

In addition, educational materials for that purpose are being prepared for elementary school children to enable children to take actions for their own safety on the way to school.

(2) Promotion of ‘Planning a Safe and Secure Town’

As part of efforts for the “safe and secure community development,” efforts are made to create a community where children are not likely to become victims of crimes by getting a grip on and improving dangerous places such as the neighborhood of schools where crimes against children are feared to occur, school roads, parks, underpasses, empty houses and others, and by promoting the installation of street lights and security cameras.

(3) **Promoting efforts to protect children from harmful environment related to Internet**

In order to disseminate the use of filtering for internet connected devices such as mobile phones used by children, a series of efforts are made including giving guidance to and requesting employers such as mobile phone shops to take appropriate measures, educating parents using all opportunities such as school admission briefing, and conducting enlightenment activities in coordination with relevant agencies and organizations.

7) Identifying environmental factors that could affect children’s health and development.

"Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS)" was started in FY 2010.

Section 4 Assisting the lives of children of single-parent families

1. Promoting support for single-parent families

1) Parenting and life Support

In the Act for the Welfare of Fatherless Families and Widows, the local governments are obliged to take special consideration of children of one parent family when selecting children for admission to a nursery. Local governments are also notified of the need to give priority to children of one parent family for their enrollment in after school children's clubs because of their higher needs.

In addition, when a temporary problem arises in nursing care, child care or daily life on account of the parent's illness or commuting to the school for job training, the dispatched helper assists the single parent household with domestic chores.

2) Employment Support

The employment and self-help support centers for single parent households are implemented to provide consistent employment support services including the provision of employment information so that the single parent can be economically independent.

3) Enhancement of Economic Support

In addition to the provision of child-rearing allowance, loans are provided through the Welfare Loans for Fatherless Families and Widows to provide for daily needs and schooling expenses of children with the aim to contribute to the stability of life of fatherless households and promotion of self-reliance.

4) Securing Educational Expenses of the child

In the amendment to the Civil Code (Act No.89 of 1896 and final amendment made by Act No.74 of 2011), which was promulgated in June 2011, meeting of the parent-child exchange and sharing of child support is clearly mentioned as specific examples of 'matters necessary for the custody of the child' which should be defined in the uncontested divorce.

Section 5 Helping Children with Special Needs to Grow Healthy

1. Committing to Supporting Children with Disabilities

1) Efforts in Headquarters for the Promotion of Institutional Reforms for Disabled Persons

Based on the amendment to the "Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities," the "Comission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities" was established at the Cabinet Office, which is designed to investigate, deliberate and submit opinions for the formulation or revision of the Basic Plan for Disabled Persons and monitor the implementation status of the plan and make recommendations.

2) Enhancement of Consistent Support According to Life Stage

For children with disabilities, improving treatment and education system are undertaken by not only using health checkup to find their impairments as soon as possible, but also strengthening functions of child welfare facilities which implemet the treatment or professional rehabilitation based on the Child Welfare Act.

3) Childcare for Children with Disabilities, etc.

For children with disabilities, child development support and day-care center visiting support which provide training on basic actions in daily life and adapting themselves into group living, and so on are conducted. In addition, daytime temporary support to take care of the children is continuously provided, so their families can take a rest.

4) Enhancement of Support for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Based on the Act on Support for Persons with Development Disabilities (Act No. 167 of 2004) which came into force in April 2005, the government is committed to cross-related measures regarding health system, medical care, welfare, education, and employment, etc. in order to promote consistent help for children with developmental disabilities, from early childhood to adulthood.

5) Promotion of Special Needs Education

The theme of the building of an inclusive education system which is the way of the special needs education based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was subjected to expert investigation and deliberation at the ‘Special Committee of the Future Directions of Special Needs Education’ of the Central Council for Education and the deliberation results were summarized in July 2012 as the report of the Subdivision on Primary and Secondary Education. The report makes a range of recommendations including the way of special education system for building an inclusive education system for the creation of a cohesive society, the way of counseling for school enrollment and determination of school, on the reasonable accommodation to enable children with disabilities to receive education in a sufficient manner and preparation of basic environment for special needs, the development of diverse places of learning and promotion of coordination among schools, the improvement of expertise of teachers for enhancing special needs education and so on. Special needs education will be promoted based on these recommendations in the future.

2. Preventing Child Abuse and Enhancing Social Fostering

2-1 Preventing the Occurrence of Child Abuse, Early Detection and Early Response, Commitment to Supporting the Protection and Independence

The Act concerning the prevention of child abuse, which came into force in November 2000 (Act No. 82 of 2000, hereinafter referred to as "Child Abuse Prevention Act"), amended in 2004 and 2007, for responding to child abuse, has been aiming for enhancement of institutional support. However, since serious cases of child abuse did not cease, the government will continue to increase the number of support consultations on child abuse in child guidance centers nationwide, such as 50,919 locations in FY 2011, being an important issue to be addressed by society as a whole still.

2-2 Enhancing both the Quality and Quantity of Social Fostering

In January 2011, the “review committee on the social fostering measures for foster homes” was held to discuss the short-term and mid to long-term measures in a focused manner and in July of the same year, the “challenges of social fostering and its future” was summarized at this committee and the Expert Committee on Social Fostering of Children Subcommittee under the Social Security Council. Following this report, a range of measures are promoted including, promotion of family care, promotion of entrustment to foster parents and supporting foster parents, improvement in quality of management of foster homes, support for the rebuilding of parental relation, supporting independence of children, protection of children’s rights, etc.

3. Promotion of Support for Children in Special Needs such as Children of Foreign Residents

1) Generous Support with Enrollment for Children of Foreign Residents

It is possible for foreigners to send a child to school at no cost to the child, such as public elementary and junior high schools, if desired by the parents, and various measures to support the school have been carried out.

2) Assistance to Orphans due to Suicide

Local governments make use of the emergency fund for measures for the prevention of suicides in communities and make efforts such as holding meetings for supporting orphans by suicide.

4. Efforts against the Percentage of Child Poverty

1) About the Percentage of Child Poverty

Relative poverty percentage according to the latest National Livelihood Survey 2010 has become 16.0% as total, with 15.7% for children. On the other hand, relative poverty percentage of the working households with children is 14.6%, among them, relative poverty percentage of households with one adult person is 50.8%, relative poverty percentage of households with two or more adults have become 12.7%.

Chapter 3 Strengthening community with multiple networks which performs childcare

Section 1 Enhancement of Centers and Networks for Parenting Support

1. Addressing Development and Functional Enhancement of the Centers of Childcare Support in the Community

1) Visiting Every Family with Infants (Hello Baby Project)

The “Visit All Houses of Infant Project (Hello Baby Project)” which consists of paying visit to all households with infants to provide information on childcare support and understand their child-rearing environment, and to provide support such as counseling on anxieties and worries about parenting and the “Parenting Support Visit Project” which consists of paying visit to households with special needs for support for parenting to provide counseling ,guidance and advice on parenting, for increasing their parenting capacity are promoted.

2) Promoting Establishment of Community Child Care Support Centers

Childcare support has been developed in the past mainly centered on three types (plaza, center, and childrencenter). Now, the government intends to develop it centered on the “general type” which implements the aforementioned basic project at open spaces of public facilities, vacant shops in shopping streets, community centers, nurseries and the like, the “enhanced community function type” which allows parents with childcare needs to choose benefits and services from a range of support for parenting and childcare, including user support which collects and provides community-based information, multi-generational exchange and interaction and household visit to support parenting, support provided by volunteers in communities, etc. and the “coordination type” in which mothers in the middle of parent work as staff in child welfare facilities to implement the basic activities.

3) Promotion of Family Support Center

The establishment of the family support center carrying out mutual support activities such as the transportation and after school custody is promoted by membership of the workers and housewives in child care of infants or primary school children.

4) Temporary Custody, Kindergarten Custody Care

(1) Implementation of temporary custody project

The temporary custody project is implemented for coping up with the demands of temporary custody service for the child care during emergency in the family of full time housewife and temporary child care corresponding to the diversification of the work arrangement.

(2)Implementation of custody care in the kindergarten

The support is extended to the kindergarten which deals in custody care for the desired persons according to the situation in the region or demand of the parents, before and after the normal training time for Kindergarten (standard 4 hours) or the during the long holiday.

5) Using Vacant Shops in the Mall, Vacant Classrooms in the School, Kindergarten

(1) Using vacant shops in the mall

Since it is important to activate malls for the revitalization of community economy and community formation, there are currently cases where parenting and childcare support and interaction of parents and children in communities are promoted using vacant shops for the revitalization of malls.

(2) Using surplus classrooms of primary schools, junior high schools, and the kindergartens, etc. The surplus classrooms, etc. can be effectively used due to high flexibility of property disposal procedures for public school establishments receiving government subsidy and the preparation of pamphlets

introducing the case studies for using the surplus classrooms of the primary schools, junior high schools.

6) General Support Coordinator for Childcare

Coordination functions and services for childcare support which consist of getting a full picture of a range of activities and services to support childcare in communities including temporary custody and establishment of community childcare support centers are stipulated as the responsibility of municipalities in the Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164of1947).

2. Promoting Use of Residents Power, Support of Private Organizations, Intergenerational Exchange

1) Supporting Community Childcare Activity like NPO Activity

Efforts to provide learning opportunities and counseling to parents are made through a range of activities including quality training of child care facility personnel of communities such as mothers with child-rearing experience, strengthening of household education support through coordination between these personnel of communities and experts so that all parents can provide family education at ease in communities .

2) Using Manpower and Intergenerational Exchange of Retired and Elderly People in the Area
In the Silver Human Resources Centers which provide employment opportunities and social participation to elderly people, a range of childcare services are provided from parenting support such as taking care of infants to picking up and dropping at child care facility, provision of learning and life guidance for school children after school and on Saturdays and Sundays, among others.

3) Supporting Childcare by the Company Participation

Efforts such as “Childcare support program with company participation (passport project, etc.” and “Childcare support program through cooperation and collaboration between companies and NPOs” which hold events and learning venues for parents and children are promoted.

Section 2 Aiming for Children to Live Safely and Securely in Houses and Towns

1. Ensuring the Security of Housing and Living Environment that is Suitable for Raising Children

1) Support for Home Ownership Through Housing Loans and Tax System

Through the Flat 35S which is the securitization support business of the Japan Housing Finance Agency, interest rates of housing loans whose durability and variability, etc. are especially high have been lowered. In addition, taxation measures of housing loans deduction have been taken.

2) Promoting Supply of High-Quality Rental Housing for Families

To promote integrally various measures for households raising children, such as precise supply of public rental housing and support of smooth occupancy to private rental housing, the government is driving forward the supply of high-quality rental housing for families.

3) Ensuring the Stability of Residence Through the Effective Use of Public Rental Housing Stock

Child-rearing households are given preferential treatment when they settle in public housing according to the discretion and judgment of housing operators.

4) Promotion of an Integrated Development of Public Rental Houses and Childcare Support Facilities

For leading efforts to contribute to the stable supply of residence of child-rearing household, the government has been directly supporting integral developing projects, facilities for public rental housing and childcare support, along with the features in principle social welfare facilities during the reconstruction of large public rental housing.

5) Promotion of Residence in the Cities

In order to support child-rearing households living close by jobs in the city center, housing supply in city centers and urban areas is induced and promoted.

2. Promoting Barrier-Free Childcare for Safe and Peaceful Living

1) Promotion of Barrier-Free Childcare

(1) Promotion of Barrier-Free Measures that Take Into Account the Concept of Universal Design

Barrier-free environment is promoted in the “Basic Policy on Promotion of Smooth Movement” which sets the development target for 2020.

(2) Promotion of Barrier-Free Buildings

Barrier-free access is promoted in buildings used by an unspecified number of persons.

(3) Promotion of Barrier-Free Public Transportation

Support measures are implemented for the provision of barrier-free access to passenger ship terminals and railway terminals as well as the introduction of non-step bus, bus with a lift, welfare taxi, etc.

(4) Promotion of Barrier-Free Adaptations in Urban Parks, Riversides and others

Based on the standards of the Barrier-Free Act and the “Maintenance guideline for barrier-free movement in urban parks” which was formulated and enacted in FY 2007 (revised in March 2012), a barrier-free environment is further promoted in urban parks.

2) Development of Road Traffic Environment

Following a series of traffic accidents occurred in a row in April 2012 in which pupils on their way to and from school got killed and injured, and in light of the results of the emergency joint inspection carried out by schools, education boards, road administrators, and police in collaboration with parent as well as community people, traffic safety measures are promoted on school roads.

3) Promotion of Traffic Safety Training

The traffic safety education, suitable for their developmental stage, is promoted for infants and primary, secondary, high school children in coordination and cooperation of households and related institutions, organizations, etc.

4) Promotion of Making Things by Children’s View (Promotion of Kids Design)

A total of 377 applications were submitted by companies, local governments and research institutions for the Kids Design Awards and 249 of them were prize winners.