

Fig. 1-2-8

Summary of the (2nd) Task force on breaking through fertility crisis (outline)

I. Past Discussions and the results

Based on "Urgent measures for overcoming the crisis of falling birthrate decided in the Conference on countermeasure to the falling birth rate last June, we have been promoting seamless support for marriage, pregnancy, child birth and child-rearing, and some positive effects are being seen in budgets, laws and other areas.
(Specific results)

- Grant for strengthening countermeasures to falling regional birth rates, the establishment of new projects such as a reference project for comprehensive support on pregnancy and child birth, and the expansion of existing projects using the FY 2013 supplementary budget and the FY 2014 primary budget.
- Extension and enhancement of the Act for Measures to Support the Development of the Next generations
- Decrease in the age of first-time outpatients being treated for infertility at the National Center for Child Health and Development.

II. Future challenges to address and directions to take

1. Countermeasures to the falling birth rate specific to the characteristics of urban areas and regional areas

- In addition to enhancing support on child-rearing, it is necessary for government, local municipalities, local governments and fundamental municipalities to work together on countermeasures appropriate to the characteristics of urban areas and rural areas, including cooperation on policies relative to regional revitalization, job development for the youth, encouragement of settlement and so forth.
- Cooperation between municipal governments and the nationwide implementation of leading efforts, and the securement of financial resources are necessary to allow local governments to make their own efforts.

2. Securement of financial resources for countermeasures to the falling birth rate

- Considering countermeasures to the falling birth rate as an investment for the future, it is necessary to secure more financial resources, aiming for 2% of GDP as a first step.
- It is important that people better understand the countermeasures to the falling birth rate by "visualizing" the burden it creates and by "visualizing" necessary supports.
- It is required to secure the financial resources necessary for qualitative and quantitative improvements in the Comprehensive Support System for Children and Child-rearing

3. Extension and enhancement of the grant for strengthening regional countermeasures to the falling birth rate for "seamless support" on marriage, pregnancy, child birth and child-rearing

- It is necessary to continue and improve grants for strengthening countermeasures to the falling birth rate even after FY 2015.
- It is important to maximize the effects of the grants by ensuring nationwide implementation and evaluation of the leading cases.

4. Provisions for accurate information about pregnancy, child birth and others

- It is important to provide information while keeping the following four points in mind: 1) providing medically and scientifically correct information, 2) respecting an individual's discretion, 3) trying to raise social interest, and 4) establishing an environment where anyone can access the right information.

5. Aiming for shared awareness of breaking through the fertility crisis

- In order to establish a shared awareness among society, it is important to increase the awareness of all the stakeholders, such as citizens, enterprises, schools and mass media.
- In order to establish the shared awareness of enterprises, it is especially important to increase the awareness of company executives, so that they will make efforts to improve workplace environments in which young employees can be married and raise children.

6. Implementation of summarizing and reviewing the measures ("CAPD" (check—act—plan—do cycle))

- It is important to summarize and review the relevant measures so as to make them more effective and efficient. It is necessary to continuously conduct the steps in the "CAPD" cycle and to establish a mechanism for visualizing them.

7. Discussion about what the goals for countermeasures to the falling birth rate should be

- It is necessary to set some goals from the standpoint of evaluating the measures' results and increasing people's awareness.
- In setting a goal, it is important that people understand and agree, that we seek the best benefit for children, and that we realize the fact that this issue affects the entire nation and all of its families.

III. Proposals toward future actions

Proposal 1: Discuss the formulation of a new outline
As a comprehensive guideline that the whole government should work on, we shall quickly commence discussions toward the formulation of a new outline of countermeasures for a society with a declining birthrate.

Proposal 2: Decide a timeline for intensively working on countermeasures to the falling birth rate, thrash out every potential measure and secure financial resources
Along with establishing a timeline for intensively working on countermeasures to the falling birth rate, we will aim for building a mechanism to perform all of the steps of the "CAPD" cycle. Also, we will aim for implementing not only past countermeasures to the falling birth rate that focus on child-rearing support, but also for fundamental countermeasures to the falling birth rate in which the government devotes its utmost effort, such as by the establishment of a task force within the government so as to thrash out every potential measure while cooperating with other relevant measures. In addition to this, we will aim for funding to be set at 2% of GDP, which accounts for double the present rate of GDP being spent.

Proposal 3: Further discuss unsolved issues
It is required to set goals for countermeasures to the falling birth rate from the standpoint of evaluating the measures' results and reforming public consciousness. Development of an environment that enables individuals to be married at their desired age and to fill the gap between the number of children they desire to have and the number of children they actually have is a goal that people can understand and agree upon.

Source: Data of the Cabinet Office

(Establishment of a Grant for Strengthening Countermeasures to the Falling Birth Rate)

The Urgent Countermeasures specified that in taking measures to deal with the declining birthrate, efforts tailored to the circumstances of communities are important. Also, in the "Economical Countermeasures to Realize a Virtuous Circle" (endorsed by the Cabinet on December 5, 2013), "Strengthening Countermeasures to the Falling Birthrate in Regions" was incorporated. Based on these, a "Grant for Strengthening Countermeasures to the Falling Birth Rate" was established using the FY 2013 supplementary budget (3.1 billion yen).

The purpose of the Grant is to provide the national government's support for the local governments and municipal governments that conduct pioneering efforts of their own, according to community circumstances, so as to provide seamless support on marriage, pregnancy, child birth and child-rearing.

The local governments and municipal governments shall specify plans in which the following service contents are described and provide services on the basis of those plans.

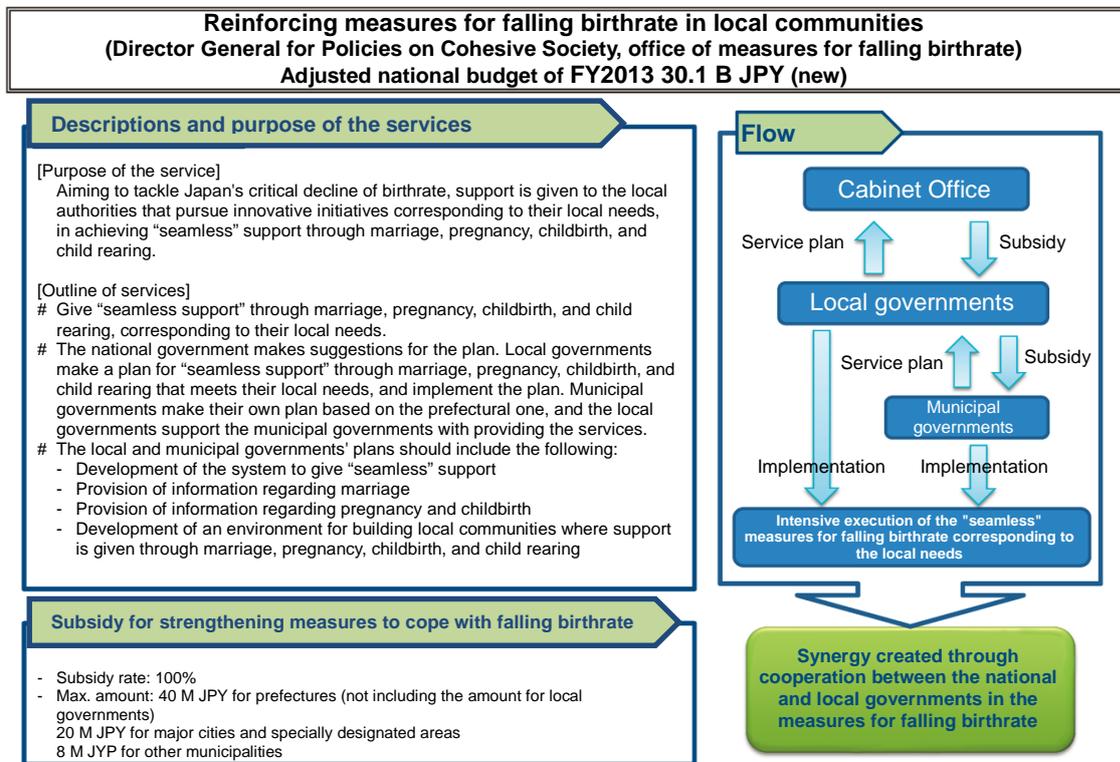
The service contents mentioned above are as follows:

- 1) Build a mechanism to provide seamless support for marriage, pregnancy, child birth and child-rearing,
- 2) Provide information on marriage,
- 3) Provide information relating to pregnancy and child birth, and
- 4) Develop environments toward forming communities where there is no worry about marriage, pregnancy, child birth or child-rearing.

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Fig. 1-2-9

Outline of the Grant for Reinforcing Measures for Falling Birthrate in Local Communities



Source: Data of the Cabinet Office

2. Reducing Wait-listed Children

In April 2013, the admission capacity of nursery centers amounted to 2,288,819 persons (increased by 48,641 persons over the previous year), and the rate of children who attend nursery centers (calculated by dividing the number of children who attend nursery centers by the number of pre-school children) has amounted to 35.0% (increased by 0.8 points over the previous year). The number of children on the wait list has decreased three years in a row to 22,741 (a decrease of 2,084 persons as compared to the previous year). Also, as for the situation on specified municipal governments, the number of specified municipal governments in which there are 50 children on the wait list, and on which there is an obligation to formulate plans relating to the securement of a supply system for services such as childcare services on the basis of the "Child Welfare Act" (Act No. 164 of 1947), has amounted to 101 and decreased by 6 municipal governments over the previous year (14 municipal governments have been newly designated as specified municipal governments and 20 municipal governments have been excluded as specified municipal governments).

The "Acceleration Plan for Reducing Wait-listed Children" defines FY 2013 and FY 2014 as the "Period Requiring Urgent and Focused Efforts," and it plans to secure the capacity of nursery centers for about 200,000 children in the two years between FY 2013 and FY 2014. Furthermore, this Plan defines the three years ranging from FY 2015 to FY 2017 as the "Period Requiring Accelerated Efforts," and this Plan plans to expand the capacity of nursery centers to allow for an additional 200,000 children by the end of FY 2017, when nursery needs will peak, including the potential need for necessary childcare to reduce wait-listed children.

During the "Period Requiring Urgent and Focused Efforts" in FY 2013 and FY 2014, a support measure package consisting of the five pillars mentioned below strongly supports motivated municipal governments, and is an urgent project.

(Support measure package: "The Five Pillars")

1. Develop nursery centers utilizing a rental system and nationally-owned lands ("for places")
2. Secure nursery teachers who can contribute to a quantitative expansion of childcare ("for persons")

3. Take the lead to provide resources within the new system, such as small-scale childcare services
4. Support uncertified childcare facilities that aim to achieve certification
5. Support childcare within institution facilities

Hence, a decision has been made to secure the operating costs of nursery centers so as to increase the admission capacity of nursery centers by 72,000 people using funds from the FY 2014 budget, and to promote efforts such as the development of nursery centers, small-scale childcare centers, centers for early childhood education and care and other institutions, and to secure human resources for nursery teachers by further raising necessary amounts of money through “Funds for Parents to Raise Children with Ease” which was established in the local governments by integrated measures using the FY 2013 supplementary budget and the FY 2014 budget and by extending the project period by one year. Also, the Operations on the Urgent Securement of Childcare (appropriated by the Cabinet Office) are to take measures toward small-scale childcare, family-style day-care, and day-care at kindergartens. They will also offer support for uncertified childcare facilities that aim at achieving certification and support for the improved treatment for nursery teachers, which is to strongly support efforts toward reducing wait-listed children.

Also, in order to achieve a smooth transition to the Comprehensive Support System for Children and Child-rearing that is scheduled to be fully implemented in FY 2015, the Operations on the Urgent Securement of Childcare will lead efforts to support community child care support centers and other support center services for local child-rearing that municipal governments provide under the new system; this will be in addition to services relating to the “Acceleration Plan for Reducing Wait-listed Children.”

Additional measures include small-scale childcare, family-style day-care, extended-hour day-care in kindergartens, support for uncertified childcare facilities, the improved treatment of nursery teachers, and user support . In addition, there is also support for efforts toward reducing wait-listed children, enhancing after-school children’s clubs and providing assistance related to services, such as support center services for community child care support centers, temporary custody service, family support center services, and visit to all families with a baby.

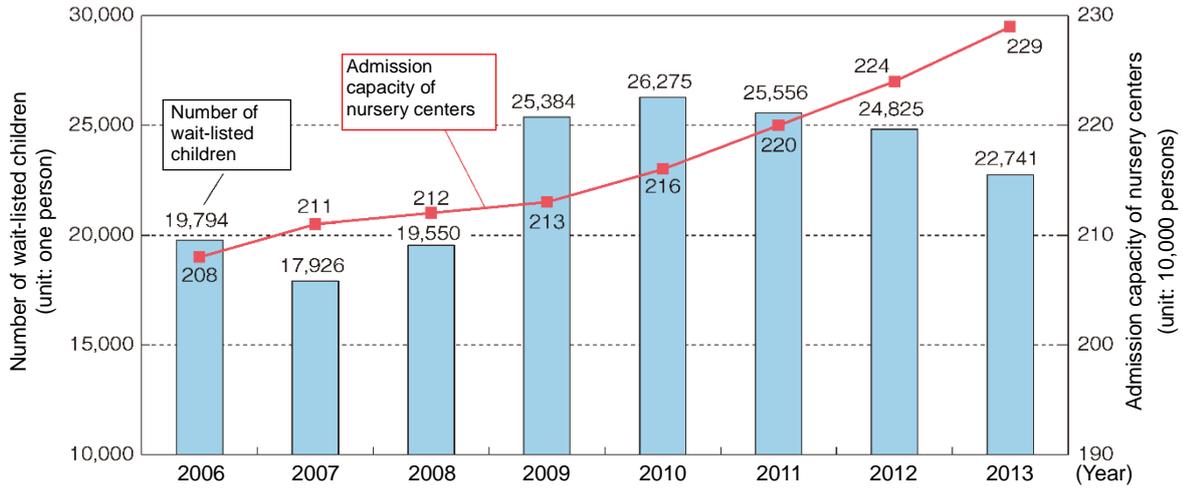
Also, the Urban Renaissance Agency Lease-Housing is making efforts to set up nursery centers by utilizing places such as available sites that have been developed as a result of conducting measures such as housing-complex renaissance operations, and by using existing vacant stores in cooperation with local governments. In addition to these achievements, 332 nursery centers have been set up.

Fig. 1-2-10 Current status of wait-listed children

Status of wait-listed children

- The number of wait-listed children as of April 1, 2013 is 22,741 people (this has decreased three years in a row)
- The rate of younger wait-listed children (aged 0 - 2 years) is about 82% of the total (18,656 persons)
- The admission capacity of nursery centers as of April 1, 2013 increased by 48,641 persons over the previous year, the number of children who attend nursery centers has increased by 42,779 persons over the previous year.
- The number of municipal governments where there are wait-listed children is 340 (about 19.5% of the total (1742 autonomous entities))
The number of municipal governments where there are more than 50 wait-listed children is 101
The number of municipal governments where there are more than 100 wait-listed children is 64
- The rate of wait-listed children in urban areas (*) is about 80.3% of the total (18,267 persons).
(*) Total of the number of wait-listed children in the seven prefectures, the metropolitan areas (Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo and Kanagawa) and the Kinki area (Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo), ordinance-designated cities and core cities.
- The "Acceleration Plan for Reducing Wait-listed Children" aims for achieving zero-wait-listed children by the end of FY 2017.

Changes in the number of wait-listed children and in the admission capacity of nursery centers



Source: Data of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Table 1-2-11

Municipal governments that should formulate a childcare plan (those with more than 50 wait-listed children)

	Prefecture	Municipality	Number of wait-listed children	Increase or decrease over the previous year		Prefecture	Municipality	Number of wait-listed children	Increase or decrease over the previous year
1	Tokyo	Setagaya City	884	98	65	Nagasaki	Nagasaki City	97	54
2	Fukuoka	Fukuoka City	695	▲ 198	66	Tokyo	Bunkyo City	96	▲ 15
3	Tokyo	Nerima City	578	55	67	Nara	Nara City	95	▲ 20
4	Miyagi	Sendai City	533	123	68	Kyoto	Kyoto City	94	▲ 28
5	Okinawa	Naha City	439	3	69	Ibaragi	Mito City	91	3
6	Tokyo	Ota City	438	46	70	Tiba	Matsudo City	91	4
7	Kanagawa	Kawasaki City	438	▲ 177	71	Oita	Oita City	89	44
8	Tokyo	Itabashi City	417	75	72	Tokyo	Tachikawa City	88	11
9	Tokyo	Koto City	416	163	73	Osaka	Hachio City	87	12
10	Hokkaido	Sapporo City	398	▲ 531	74	Tiba	Ichihara City	86	7
11	Hiroshima	Hiroshima City	372	37	75	Tiba	Urayasu City	82	44
12	Hyogo	Kobe City	337	▲ 194	76	Tokyo	Higashimurayama City	81	▲ 114
13	Tiba	Itikawa City	336	40	77	Okinawa	Uruma City	80	▲ 22
14	Tokyo	Adachi City	294	▲ 103	78	Okinawa	Miyakojima City	80	16
15	Osaka	Osaka City	287	▲ 377	79	Tokyo	Higashiyama City	79	15
16	Tokyo	Suginami City	285	233	80	Saitama	Niiza City	78	▲ 3
17	Aichi	Nagoya City	280	▲ 752	81	Saitama	Soka City	76	56
18	Kanagawa	Fujisawa City	277	▲ 102	82	Tokyo	Tama City	75	▲ 65
19	Tokyo	Toyoshima City	270	141	83	Osaka	Toyonaka City	75	34
20	Okinawa	Okinawa City	269	70	84	Hyogo	Amagasaki City	74	27
21	Shizuoka	Hamamatsu City	269	103	85	Tokyo	Shibuya City	73	▲ 62
22	Tokyo	Machida City	257	▲ 36	86	Okinawa	Nanjo City	71	9
23	Tokyo	Hachioji City	253	▲ 122	87	Okinawa	Chatan Town	70	1
24	Tokyo	Chofu City	249	69	88	Miyagi	Osaki City	69	53
25	Osaka	Higashiosaka City	230	16	89	Okinawa	Ishigaki City	67	5
26	Tiba	Funabashi City	227	44	90	Hyogo	Akashi City	63	13
27	Okinawa	Urasoe City	220	▲ 41	91	Tokyo	Shinagawa City	62	12
28	Tokyo	Minato City	195	20	92	Osaka	Sakai City	62	▲ 395
29	Tokyo	Chuo City	193	114	93	Fukuoka	Kasuya Town	58	▲ 8
30	Okinawa	Ginowan City	193	▲ 66	94	Tiba	Nagareyama City	57	▲ 24
31	Tokyo	Edogawa City	192	▲ 19	95	Kagoshima	Kagoshima City	57	▲ 120
32	Tokyo	Koganei City	188	50	96	Osaka	Takatsuki City	55	▲ 15
33	Tokyo	Nishitokyo City	184	▲ 6	97	Miyagi	Higashimatsushima	53	53
34	Tokyo	Sumida City	181	76	98	Tokyo	Kokubunji City	53	34
35	Tokyo	Musashino City	181	61	99	Tokyo	Kiyose City	52	▲ 1
36	Tokyo	Fucyu City	181	▲ 1	100	Tokyo	Inagi City	50	7
37	Okinawa	Yaese Town	181	72	101	Iwate	Morioka City	50	2
38	Kumamoto	Kumamoto City	180	61	Municipalities with 50 - 99 children on a waiting list: Subtotal			2,716	▲ 376
39	Tokyo	Shinjuku City	176	78	Municipalities with more than 50 children on a waiting list: Total			18,191	▲ 978
40	Tokyo	Kodaira City	174	▲ 5					
41	Kanagawa	Chigasaki City	174	▲ 6					
42	Tokyo	Mitaka City	160	32					
43	Tokyo	Hino City	155	2					
44	Shizuoka	Shizuoka City	153	▲ 2					
45	Tokyo	Nakano City	147	33					
46	Kanagawa	Yamato City	147	20					
47	Shiga	Otsu City	146	▲ 1					
48	Kumamoto	Kikuyo Town	143	6					
49	Osaka	Suita City	133	98					
50	Tokyo	Meguro City	132	▲ 11					
51	Kanagawa	Sagamihara City	132	▲ 112					
52	Hyogo	Takarazuka City	128	37					
53	Osaka	Ibaraki City	126	▲ 34					
54	Tokyo	Kita City	125	92					
55	Okinawa	Tomigusuku City	124	12					
56	Tokyo	Higashikurume City	120	16					
57	Saitama	Saitama City	117	▲ 9					
58	Hokkaido	Asahikawa City	117	23					
59	Tiba	Kashiwa City	117	▲ 16					
60	Saitama	Kawagoe City	112	18					
61	Saitama	Kawaguchi City	110	▲ 13					
62	Kumamoto	Koshi City	105	28					
63	Kumamoto	Mashiki City	104	104					
64	Okinawa	Itoman City	101	▲ 37					
Municipalities with more than 100 children on a waiting list: Subtotal			15,475	▲ 602					

(As of April 1, 2013)