

Chapter 5 Framework for the Promotion of Future Measures

Section 1 Understanding the Actual State of Children and Young People, Accumulating and Sharing Knowledge

1 Research and studies

- The Cabinet Office conducts research on children and young people and posts the results on its website¹¹⁸ so that they will be widely used by the public.
- MOJ (The Ministry of Justice)'s Research and Training Institute released "Research on the Delinquency of Foreign Juveniles in Japan" (First report/Second report) to the public as a report by the research department in 2012 and 2013.¹¹⁹
- MHLW (The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) is promoting research on children, young people and their guardians with Health and Labor Sciences Research Grants.

2 Developing an environment for shareing and using research data

- MIC (The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) provides statistical information from each ministry on the government statistics portal site "e-stat"¹²⁰ in a unified way. It also appropriately operates the system for secondary use of statistical data under the Statistics Act.

Section 2 Publicity and Education

1 Publicity, education and information services

(1) Educational activities

(Children and Young People's Development Support Month)

- In 1978, the Cabinet Office designated November of each year as "Children and Young People's Development Support Month,"¹²¹ and it carries out various programs and activities together with relevant ministries, local organizations and the organizations concerned. In FY 2013, the following five points were made key issues.
 - Promote support for the social independence of children and young people
 - Review our lifestyle and provide support for families
 - Prevent child abuse and respond to it
 - Promote efforts to protect children and young people from crimes and harmful environments
 - Promote measures against child poverty

(Commendations for Supporters of Children/Family and Youth; Commendations for Youth Social Contributions)

- The Cabinet Office awards companies, organizations and individuals for their activities to develop and support for children and young people with the Supporters of Children/Family and Youth¹²². It awards young people (including organizations) the Commendations for Youth Social Contributions for their contributions to society. It also carries out the "Project on Introduction of Activities to Support Youth Development and Child-Rearing," which introduces excellent activities to develop and support children and young people to society at large.

118 <http://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/kenkyu.htm>

119 http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housouken03_00063.html (First report)
http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housouken03_00071.html (Second report)

120 www.e-stat.go.jp/

121 It went under the name of "Youth's Healthy Development Month" between FY 1978 and FY 2009. However, in FY 2010, its name was changed to "Children and Young People's Development Support Month" in accordance with the implementation of the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People.

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/ikusei/index.html>

122 Refer to the Cabinet Office website (<http://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/ikusei.htm>) for the list of award winners and their contributions.

(Juvenile Delinquency and Harm Prevention Month)

- In 1979, the Cabinet Office designated July of each year, when school is closed for summer vacation, as “Juvenile Delinquency and Harm Prevention Month,” and it raises awareness of delinquency prevention among people and strengthens the responses to delinquency and other problematic behaviors through the participation of many ministries and in cooperation with the organizations concerned. In FY 2013, the following points were made key issues.
 - Promotion of measures to prevent delinquency and criminal damage related to the use of the Internet
 - Proper responses to harmful environments
 - Promotion of measures against drug abuse
 - Prevention of delinquent behavior and initial delinquency (crime)
 - Prevention of recidivism (crime)
 - Responses to problematic behavior such as bullying and violence
 - Prevention of criminal damage that endangers the welfare of young people
- The NPA (The National Police Agency) produced about 70,000 posters to advocate for the prevention of delinquency, naming it the “Visual Delinquency Prevention Campaign,” and put them up in all areas of the country in time for the “Juvenile Delinquency and Harm Prevention Month,” July 2013. Also, it requested that major professional baseball stadiums and professional soccer stadiums cooperate in providing publicity using electronic display boards while games are being held.

(Child Abuse Prevention Month)

- In 2004, MHLW and the Cabinet Office both designated November of each year as “Child Abuse Prevention Month,” and otherwise raise awareness of the problem of child abuse in society.

(“Movement for a Brighter Society”—the power of the community preventing crime and delinquency, assisting rehabilitation of offenders)

- Since 1951, MOJ has promoted the “Movement for a Brighter Society”¹²³ in order to create a bright society without crimes and delinquency. It makes efforts to appeal to public opinion in July, designated as the campaign month, every year.

(Educational activities regarding human rights)

- The Human Rights Organs of MOJ carry out various promotion activities nationwide throughout the year, such as holding lectures, symposium and workshop, and distributing leaflets about child abuse, bullying, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and children’s rights. Also, the Organs carry out promotion activities under the slogan of “Protect Children’s Rights” as one of the annual priority matters of the promotion activities mainly during the Human Rights Week between December 4 and 10.

(Promoting “Food Education” as a national campaign)

- The Cabinet Office has designated June as “Food Education Month,” and performs intensive educational activities every June. It has also designated the 19th as “Food Education Day,” and is also continuously conducting a campaign to promote food education promotion.

(2) Information services for children and young people

- Each ministry is working to make every sort of information more available to children and young people and easier for them to understand by taking advantage of Kids’ Pages. The main e-government service center, e-Gov, has a collection of links to each ministry’s Kids’ Page available to the public in its “Collection of Children’s Pages”¹²⁴

123 http://www.moj.go.jp/hogo1/kouseihogoshinkou/hogo_hogo06.html

124 <http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/kids/index.html>

Section 3 International Collaboration and Cooperation

1 Cooperation with international institutions

- The government is working to ensure the enforcement of the “Convention on the Rights of the Child” and its two supplements: the “Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict” and the “Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.” Also, it contributes to international efforts aimed at achieving the elimination of child labor, through implementation of the “Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour” (Convention No.182), which was adopted by the International Labour Organization, ILO.

2 Gathering and disseminating information

- The government releases information on Japan’s domestic measures to develop and support children and young people to the international community at the United Nations. It announced information on Japan’s policy on international cooperation for eliminating child labor at the third Global Conference on Child Labour in October 2013.

Section 4 Promoting Measures

1 Inspection and evaluation of the status of implementation of related measures

- In November 2013, the Council for Investigation and Evaluation of the Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People¹²⁵ started a thorough review of “Vision for Children and Young People,” the current outline for the promotion of development and support for children and young people, aiming to contribute to the review of a new outline that is supposed to be created in FY 2014 or later.

2 Hearing children’s and young people’s opinions

125 <http://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/suisin/hyouka/index.html>