

Vision for Children and Young People

—Supporting the development of children and young people,
aiming for a society inclusive of every single person—

July 2010

Headquarters for Promotion of Development and Support for
Children and Young People

Note: The “Vision for Children and Young People” has been prepared as an Outline for the Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People based on Article 8(1) of the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People (Act No. 71 of 2009).

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I. Supporting the development of children and young people, aiming for a society inclusive of every single person

(The “now” and “future” of children and young people)

Children and young people are living in an irreplaceable “present.” At the same time, they are also the “adults of times to come” who bear the future of Japan—and indeed of the world—on their shoulders.

In addition to leading active and happy lives, the present is a preparatory phase for the future, of children and young people challenging things unknown, acquiring new skills through trial and error and launching themselves into the world with confidence.

(Awareness of the situation)

The advance of globalism has narrowed the distance between Japan and the rest of the world, and we are required to live alongside people with diverse values. Also, further developments made in information and technology have, on the one hand, broadened our perspectives and wisdom and have provided a stage for the creation of new intellectual and cultural value, but on the other hand, some people are concerned that such developments have caused unexpected suffering to children and have had negative impacts such on human relationships. Consequently, learning skills for making full and appropriate use of information and information devices has become an issue.

Furthermore, the employment environment has undergone considerable changes, and in particular, the increase in the number of non-regular workers has become a major cause for young people to feel uneasy about the future. The number of “freeters” (job-hopping part-time workers) and NEETs remains high, and the widening of economic disparities and the entrenchment of such disparities across multiple generations are also drawing attention as problems of “child poverty.” Among victims of child abuse and so forth, there are also some children and young people who have no home to go to and no one to turn to for help, who are searching for a place among the scarce places available in society to accept them.

Amid comments that there has been a decline in the capacity of homes and communities to nurture children and young people, as well as providing support for people in such difficulties, society as a whole must perform a function of watching over and raising children and young people. To this end, in addition to adults awakening to a reconsideration of how society ought to be, our plan is to promote measures while regarding any necessary costs as “investments for the future” and “investments for society” rather than just as expenses for the happiness of the children and young people themselves.

(Formulating the “Vision for Children and Young People”)

In response to the enforcement of the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for

Children and Young People (Act No. 71 of 2009), this “Vision for Children and Young People” has been prepared as a replacement for the “National Youth Development Policy” (determined in December 2008).

In drafting this Vision, examinations were conducted from the following perspectives.

- Rather than viewing them as objects of nurturing, respect children and young people as important members making up society.
- Support the development of children and young people through community networks that are centered around children and young people and which also include specialists.
- In addition to supporting the growth and development of all children and young people, provide support so that children and young people facing difficulty can overcome the situation in which they are placed.
- As well as supporting children and young people living in the present, support their development so that they can lead even better lives in the future.
- The role of the adults surrounding children and young people is of great significance, and so require that adults also actively engage in building an even better society.

Measures to develop and support children and young people span almost all areas of society, including education, welfare, health, medical care, correction, offenders rehabilitation and employment. All possible efforts will be made, in close coordination with relevant national and local government organizations, private-sector groups and so on.

II. Basic policy

1. Five principles

(1) Respect the best interests of children and young people

In accordance with the principles of the Constitution of Japan and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, value the dignity of children and young people as individuals, fully respect their opinions in line with their developmental stage, and aim to ensure that their best interests are taken into consideration.

(2) Children and young people are partners living with adults

Rather than regarding children or young people as being one rank lower than adults, and conversely, rather than being indulgent to children and young people, aim for adults and children/young people to live alongside each other as pillars of society while holding each other in respect.

(3) Provide support for children and young people to establish themselves and to become proactive members of society

Support healthy growth and development so that children and young people can nurture feelings of self-esteem and self-approval, and establish themselves as independent individuals, while being conscious of their connection with society, and in terms of their relationship with society, so that, more than just adapting, they can acquire the ability to change the future society into something better on their own.

(4) Implement comprehensive support according to the situation of each individual child or young person at multiple levels across the whole of society

Children and young people all have different abilities and potentials, and they all face differing degrees of hardship. Also, there are some times when support across various areas needs to be combined, and there are other times when support in just one area is provided by a variety of public and private-sector organizations and individuals. Given this, fine-tuned support needs to be provided while being considerate of the fact that the problems faced by individuals vary according to their individual circumstances, developmental stage, gender and other factors, and while different areas and different actors coordinate and cooperate with each other across the whole of society and while necessary revenue sources are secured.

Furthermore, through this coordination and cooperation, the aim is to achieve “A Society Inclusive of Every Single Person” where not a single person is excluded from the networks of mutual support, and in addition, support will be provided so that all children and young people are able to start a solid life in society.

(5) Reconsider how our adult society should be

The problems of children and young people are problems for the whole of society, including the adults that surround them. Moreover, this is not limited to only instances such as child abuse where adults are the perpetrators of wrongdoings against the children and young people. In light of this, efforts will be made so that adults become aware of their own responsibilities and can act as models for children and young people, and initiatives will be advanced to reconsider how society ought to be so that improvements to society can be undertaken.

2. Three priority issues

(1) Assist children and young people to learn how to live active and happy lives

Support will be provided to the building of foundations for children and young people to growth and develop. To this end, improvements will be made to the situations surrounding children and young people, such as ensuring good homelike environments and reconsidering how our adult society should be. Furthermore efforts will be made such as to nurture a rich humanity, form basic lifestyle habits, improve physical fitness and ensure basic academic abilities. In addition, opportunities will be secured for children and young people to express their views and opinions.

Further, by accumulating a variety of experiences and interactions with others on top of these foundations, knowledge, skills, sociability, leadership and other attributes needed as independent individuals will be nurtured. To this end, efforts will be made to enrich dynamic activities, such as social participation and hands-on activities, and to enrich career education, vocational education and activities for children and young people to encounter and get a better understanding of other cultures.

(2) Support children, young people and their families facing difficulties

Some children and young people require special assistance because of the various hardships they are faced with. These hardships are wide-ranging and include NEETs, social withdrawal, school truancy and other difficulties in leading trouble-free lives in society. Other possible difficulties include being disabled, being a victim of abuse or other crimes and being a foreign resident. Given this, specific assistance will be provided for each type of difficulty. For children and young people who have become involved in delinquency or crime, support will be provided by taking into account the difficulties they face, so that they can get back on their own feet as members of society. In addition to the actual children and young people, support will also be provided for their families. Furthermore, a proactive approach will be taken for the problems of “child poverty.”

(3) Develop various supporters to implement measures at the local level

The development and support for children and young people requires all members of society in all areas to fulfill their respective roles, and it requires a completely integrated approach with members cooperating with each other. In particular, given that remarks have been made on the weakening of connections in communities, support will be given to a variety of activities that complement the functions of families and communities while also taking into account the line of thinking adopted in the “New Public Commons.” Furthermore, in addition to ensuring the integrated nature of networks so that public-private efforts do not become vertically sectionalized according to different administrative sectors, networks of children and young people will also be strengthened.

Also, by strengthening the education-support systems in local communities, which also include the participation and cooperation of private-sector collaborators, efforts will be promoted which include the creation of “open” schools. Efforts will also be made to disseminate a system, which has been established in some local governments under names like “ombudspersons for children,” whereby various problems relating to children and young people, such as the violation of rights, are coordinated and resolved from a third-party perspective.

III. Basic direction of measures for children and young people, etc.

Based on these five principles and three priority issues, the following measures will be advanced.

1. Provide support for the healthy development of all children and young people

(1) Support for the self-development of children and young people

(i) Acquisition of daily life skills

(Formation of basic lifestyle habits)

Efforts aimed at the formation of lifestyle habits will be promoted both inside and outside of schools. Furthermore, efforts concerning eating education will also be promoted in relation with families, schools and local communities, such as through the enrichment of food-related learning and hands-on activities.

(Development of communication abilities and norm consciousness, etc.)

In order to foster communication abilities, norm consciousness and so on, efforts will be made to enrich learning, such as through presentations and debating, and moral education, to enrich hands-on activities such as experiences in nature and overnight group trips, and to promote delinquency prevention classes.

(Improvement of physical fitness)

In addition to enriching physical education classes and sports club activities, efforts for the improvement of physical fitness will be promoted in schools and communities.

(ii) Provision of opportunities of various activities

(Ensuring opportunities for group activities)

In addition to ensuring places for group activities, efforts will be promoted to provide opportunities for learning activities, sporting, cultural and artistic activities, recreation and so on with the participation of local residents.

(Promotion of reading activities)

Reading activities for children will be promoted in order to deepen and broaden the public's interest and understanding about children's reading activities.

(Diverse activities in local communities)

The provision of opportunities will be promoted in a variety of places for various hands-on activities such as environmental learning, experiences in nature, overnight group trips, volunteer work, sporting activities, artistic and traditional cultural experiences, and creative activities including dance, and for diverse activities such as intergenerational and interregional exchange.

In addition to promoting activities in which participants stay in rural districts and

experience a real farming, forestry or fisheries life, exchanges between whole families and the hosting of children's groups and school tour groups will be promoted.

(Response to lifelong learning)

In order to achieve a "lifelong learning society" that meets diverse learning needs, as well as efforts to expand learning opportunities, efforts will be promoted to create systems for learning outcomes to be properly evaluated.

Also, given that women in particular are in a tough situation, finding it difficult to gain stable employment, lifelong learning opportunities for women will be enriched.

(Ensuring opportunities to experience diverse values)

Support will be expanded so that children and young people can experience diverse values beyond the realm of their normal lives and so that they can communicate on an ongoing basis with people from around the world using information devices, such as through Internet-based inquiry learning and international exchange.

(iii) Improvement of academic ability

(Establishment of "academic abilities," including knowledge and skills, the ability to think, make judgments and express oneself, and the desire to learn)

Necessary support will be provided so that progress can be made in the initiatives of individual schools aimed at: children acquiring basic and fundamental knowledge and skills; children developing the ability to think, make judgments and express themselves, which is necessary for solving issues using their acquired knowledge and skills; and raising the desire to learn and establishing study habits.

(Guarantee of basic academic abilities)

Efforts for guaranteeing basic academic abilities will be promoted at the elementary and lower secondary school stage, such as enhancing individual support for children who have particularly poor academic abilities.

The provision of opportunities for children to acquire academic abilities at the elementary and lower secondary school stage will be promoted even more for children who do not adapt well to the existing school education framework.

(Guarantee of the quality of upper secondary school education)

The quality of education will be guaranteed by providing learning and living support in consideration of the diversifying circumstances of students so that all children who want to can graduate from upper secondary school.

Also, the re-learning of basic academic abilities will be promoted for children who did not fully acquire them at the elementary and lower secondary school stage.

(Promotion of the computerization of school education)

An environment will be created in which schooling suitable for the 21st century can be realized, so that, by utilizing information and communications technology, interactive and

easy-to-understand lessons can be achieved, the burden on school teachers can be lessened, and the information literacy of pupils and students can be improved. An example is where children teach and learn from each other.

(iv) Improvement of higher education

(Enrichment of educational content)

In addition to promoting improvements in educational content and educational methods at universities, specialized training colleges and so forth, the development of high-quality education will also be supported. Also, an increase in opportunities to learn about the basic principles of information societies and about the advanced utilization of information will be promoted. Furthermore, in order to enrich opportunities for lifelong learning, efforts will be promoted for meeting the demands of a wide range of users, including working adults, at universities, specialized training colleges and so on.

(v) Financial assistance

(Improvement of financial assistance)

Based on the perspective that raising each and every child who will lead the next generation is not a problem just for individuals or for families, but is to be supported by society as a whole, child allowances will be put into effect.

Also, in elementary and secondary education, so that all children and young people who want to study do not abandon their preferred education for economic reasons, in addition to establishment of making upper secondary school free-of-charge in principle, school expense subsidies provided by municipalities will continue to be promoted. Moreover, efforts will also be made for necessary support measures in order to further reduce the economic burden of education.

With higher education, the burden on the learner is particularly great. Therefore, in addition to expanding scholarships, efforts will also be made to assist the tuition waiver measures implemented by universities and other institutions, as a substantial form of benefit-type financial assistance.

(2) Support for the social development and social participation of children and young people

(i) Support for participation in the formation of society

(Promotion of education related to social development and social participation (citizenship education))

Education related to social development and social participation (citizenship education) will be promoted in order for children and young people to become independent as members of society and for them to adopt an attitude of becoming actively involved in

society through the exercise of rights and obligations.

Specifically, efforts will be made for schooling which enriches political education and forms a view on a career and work, on such issues as democratic government, political participation, legal and economic systems, the rights and obligations of workers, and consumption.

(Securing of opportunities for children and young people to express their views and opinions)

In order to promote participation in the policy-formation process, opportunities will be secured for children and young people to express their views and opinions, such as through utilization of the open candidacy system for members to various councils and committees, and through the public solicitation of opinions via the Internet and other means.

Regarding measures to develop and support children and young people and measures in areas in which intergenerational agreement is essential, consideration will be given to the composition of members on councils and committees so that the opinions of children and young people are also actively and appropriately reflected.

(ii) Promotion of social participation

(Promotion of volunteering and other social participation activities)

Support will be given for children and young people to acquire civic-mindedness and sociability through volunteer activities and for them to participate in the local community.

(International exchange activities)

In order to foster international understanding and to develop an international point of view among young people, and to establish the identity as the Japanese, opportunities to engage in international exchange and experience other cultures will be provided such as the invitation and dispatch of Japanese and foreign youth.

(3) Ensuring the health and security of children and young people

(i) Ensuring and improving health

(Ensuring worry-free and safe pregnancies and childbirth, and improvement of pediatric care)

Based on the “Vision for Children and Childcare,” measures will be promoted such as to ensure worry-free and safe pregnancies and childbirth, and to improve pediatric care.

(Response to issues particular to adolescence)

Various efforts will be promoted with the aim of eliminating smoking and drinking by minors, and reducing the abortion rate, the ratio of people with sexually transmitted diseases, and the frequency of anorexia nervosa among adolescent girls.

(Promotion of health education)

In cooperation with experts, health education will be enriched and promoted in schools with regard to knowledge about mental health, knowledge about drug abuse, and knowledge about sex according to different stages of development.

(ii) Improvement of counseling systems

(Improvement of counseling systems in schools)

Support will be provided for the establishment of counseling systems in schools, such as staffing school counselors and school social workers.

(Counseling in local communities, and responses at medical institutions)

In local communities, efforts will be made to improve counseling on the growth and development of children, problems of mental health, drug abuse, sex, infectious diseases and other topics, and to improve responses by medical institutions.

(4) Support for the vocational independence and employment of young people

(i) Acquisition of employment skills and motivation

(A view on a career and work, and the building of capacity needed for vocational independence)

In order for children and young people to cultivate a view on a career and work and to acquire the skills necessary for vocational independence, and in order for them to learn about the importance for both men and women of achieving economic independence, in coordination and cooperation with companies and others, career education and vocational education will be systematically enriched at each level of schooling. In making such improvements, work experience, internships and other experience-based learning activities will be utilized effectively.

(Skills development)

In order to support young people find employment by getting them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for an occupation, vocational training will be provided by way of public vocational training and through emergency human resource development support programs.

The job-card system will also be promoted—a system which leads to young people becoming regular employees by providing them with opportunities for careful career counseling and practical vocational training that combines workplace training with classroom study.

Efforts will be promoted for human resources development at universities, specialized training colleges and so on based on cooperation with industry so that young people can acquire the vocational skills needed for them to work as professionals.

(ii) Improvement of employment support

(Employment support for upper secondary school students)

“Senior high school job supporters” will be assigned to Public Employment Security Office, and in cooperation with schools, support will be provided to students for finding appropriate employment smoothly.

(Employment support for university and other tertiary students)

Support will be provided for university and other tertiary students, including various seminars to help students make appropriate occupational choices, the provision of information via “university graduate job supporters,” and fine-tuned vocational counseling and job referrals for individual students.

(Support for vocational independence)

At Public Employment Security Office, individual support will be consistently provided, primarily for “freeters” (job-hopping part-time workers), from vocational counseling and job referrals until they become established in their profession. Furthermore, efforts will be made toward the active utilization of the trial employment system, by which young people are hired for a certain probationary period with the possibility of transfer to regular employment afterward.

(Support for business startups)

The entrepreneurship of young people will be supported, such as low-interest loans for investment in plant and equipment and for working capital being implemented for young entrepreneurs aged fewer than 30 who have started a new business within the last five years.

2. Support children, young people and their families facing difficulties

(1) Efforts according to type of difficulty

(i) Support for NEETs, social withdrawal and school truancy

(Efforts for providing support in communities to children and young people who face difficulties in leading trouble-free lives in society)

Children and young people, who face difficulties in leading trouble-free lives in society, such as those who neither continue with schooling nor find employment, need to be provided with support. Networks need to be formed by various organizations, including those in education, welfare, health, medical care, correction, offenders rehabilitation and employment, and the support needs to suit their relevant developmental stage, making the most use of the specialized nature of each organization. Furthermore, to enable these children and young people to lead trouble-free lives in society, they also need to be provided with the necessary counseling, advice and guidance, not only at the facilities of the relevant organizations, but also at their homes and at other appropriate places.

To do this, promoting the establishment of the Local Support Network System for

Children and Young People, and training aimed at developing the human resources involved in support such as home-visit support (outreach) will be conducted.

Furthermore, in order to foster sociability and other qualities, opportunities will be provided for children and young people to engage in hands-on activities on an ongoing basis.

Moreover, in examining and providing support measures, consideration will be given to the fact that unemployed women tend to be kept hidden as “household helpers” when ascertaining the need for support, and the fact that support organizations and so on are not making full use of women in their operations.

(Support for NEETs and other young people)

Support for the vocational independence of young people such as NEETs will be promoted through the “Regional Youth Support Stations” program which provides NEETs and other young people with a diverse schedule of employment support, including professional counseling suited to the circumstances of each individual and guidance utilizing networks of local young people’s support organizations.

(Support for social withdrawal)

Counseling and support will be provided in mental health and welfare centers, public health centers, municipal health centers, child guidance centers and so forth. Furthermore, primary consultation services for social withdrawal, such as “local support centers for reclusive behaviors,” will be developed at each prefecture and ordinance-designated city.

(Support for school truancy)

In addition to promoting effective efforts that lead to prevention, early-stage detection and early response as well as efforts in cooperation with relevant organizations, counseling systems will continue to be established both inside and outside of schools.

(Response to mental issues)

In addition to providing support for the establishment of counseling systems, such as through the improvement of counseling at specialized organizations and staffing school counselors and school social workers, support for home education by utilizing local human resources will also be promoted.

(Support for upper secondary school dropouts)

In order to examine effective support, in cooperation with schools and other organizations, efforts will be made to ascertain the actual conditions of dropouts such as after they have dropped out of school.

(ii) Support for children and young people with disabilities

(Support for children and young people with disabilities)

Based on the policy direction of the Headquarters to Promote Reform of the System for Persons with Disabilities, reforms of systems for the disabled will be promoted, including

the support for children and young people with disabilities.

Also, from the perspective of supporting active efforts aimed at the independence and social participation of children and young people with disabilities, a way of promoting a special needs education will be examined based on a principle of building an inclusive education system in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in addition to promoting special needs education that provides appropriate guidance and necessary support.

Furthermore, efforts will be promoted so that appropriate support can be provided which is sensitive to the characteristics of disabilities, such as improving at-home services and after-school support enabling children and young people with disabilities to lead anxiety-free lives in familiar surroundings.

(Support for children and young people with developmental disabilities)

Given the importance of cooperation between medical, health, welfare and education organizations, regional support systems will be further strengthened with a focus on “support centers for persons with developmental disabilities.”

As well as making efforts for early-stage detection through medical examinations and so forth, the implementation of appropriate counseling and guidance will be promoted such as through the dissemination of health guidance handbooks.

In addition to providing support from the stage when development becomes a concern, and providing appropriate guidance suitable for the developmental stage such as at schools and at counseling and support centers, improvements will be made to the provision of information and to education on the proper understanding about developmental disabilities, such as at the Information Center of Education for the Persons with Developmental Disabilities and at the Information Center for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

(Employment support for people with disabilities)

Efforts will be made to further promote the employment of persons with disabilities with a focus on the employment quota system for persons with disabilities, and consistent support will be provided from the preparatory stages of employment to settlement in the workplace through support by “employment support teams for people with disabilities” in cooperation with welfare and educational organizations and centering on Hello Work public employment security offices. At the same time, opportunities for vocational training will be ensured, taking into account the various types and needs of disabilities.

At schools, efforts will be made to improve vocational education, such as by actively giving opportunities for work experience in cooperation with industry and labor organizations.

Furthermore, in addition to making efforts such as to raise the level of wages for people with disabilities who work in vocational facilities and the like, efforts will be made to

promote a shift from welfare employment to regular employment in order to increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to work in companies and so forth.

(iii) Support for children and young people who have become involved in delinquency or crime

(Comprehensive efforts)

Support for juveniles and their families will be promoted for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, such as by utilizing “offenders rehabilitation activity support centers” and “support teams.” Furthermore, efforts will be made for cooperation between relevant local organizations including schools and the police, such as by utilizing “school problem solving support teams” and “school-police liaison councils,” and by expanding the school supporter system.

(Prevention of juvenile delinquency, counseling activities)

Effective efforts will be made that lead to the prevention, early-stage detection and early response in juvenile delinquency, and efforts will be promoted to establish opportunities for various activities and places in cooperation with local people.

Also, in order for troubled juveniles and their families to be given appropriate advice and support, in addition to making efforts for the establishment of counseling systems such as at schools and youth centers, efforts will also be promoted through cooperation among communities, schools and other relevant organizations.

In addition to working on street guidance activities, with regard to the investigation and examination of incidents, swift and appropriate responses will be promoted which give consideration to the characteristics and rehabilitation of the juvenile.

With regard to motorcycle gangs and other delinquent groups, comprehensive measures will be promoted, including stricter investigation and the dissolution of groups, as well as support for preventing juveniles from joining such groups and support for members who break away from such groups.

(Prevention of drug abuse)

With regard to measures to prevent drug abuse by children and young people, efforts will be made to further strengthen education, publicity and awareness-raising activities that are helpful in preventing drug abuse, including through the holding of “drug abuse prevention class” in schools, and the reinforcement of awareness through guidance such as when enrolling into university.

Furthermore, in penal institutions, juvenile training schools and probation offices, efforts are being made to enrich and enhance the content and methods of treatment designed to prevent drug offenders from relapsing into drug abuse, including guidance for overcoming drug addiction. In addition, efforts will be made to improve support for drug dependents, including children and young people, and their families, such as publicizing

counseling services, strengthening cooperation with relevant organizations and promoting measures in the community against dependence on drugs and other substances. Efforts will also be promoted for the relapse-prevention.

(Consideration for victims)

Efforts will be made to provide appropriate information in accordance with the requests of victims, while also taking account of the juvenile offenders' privacy, the influence on the juvenile's healthy growth, the nature of the incident and other factors.

In addition, redemption guidance will be provided for juvenile offenders, and education that incorporates victim perspectives will be enriched.

(Juvenile classification homes)

In juvenile classification homes, in addition to investigating the problems of juveniles in terms of their character and environment, by clarifying the causes why a juvenile lapsed into delinquency, in cooperation with the family courts, differentiating diagnoses and protective detention will be enriched and enhanced so that treatment needed to prevent a relapse into delinquency or a repeat offense can be implemented.

Furthermore, the state of legal support for juveniles detained in juvenile classification homes will be examined in light of the enforcement of the Juvenile Act amended in 2008.

(Juvenile training schools, children's self-reliance support facilities)

Efforts will be made to enrich correctional education in juvenile training schools and guidance for reform in juvenile prisons, as well as guidance for supporting self-reliance in children's self-reliance support facilities. Furthermore, systems that provide guidance advice and education suitable to each individual's age and capacity will be enhanced, so that juveniles can recognize the dignity and value of themselves and others, and can foster an attitude of complying with standards. To this end, efforts will also be made for the training and development of specialized staff.

(Offenders rehabilitation, and support for self-reliance and rehabilitation)

Efforts will be made to improve treatment, such as by providing redemption guidance and by implementing social participation activities in which juveniles under probation take part in care and community service activities.

Furthermore, the activities of private volunteer groups such as volunteer probation officers will be promoted.

(Employment support for juvenile delinquents)

In juvenile training schools and juvenile prisons, in addition to enriching guidance that prepares delinquent juveniles for work and stimulates their willingness to work, encouragement will be provided for them to acquire occupational skills, which will assist their rehabilitated back into society, and for them to take the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination.

Furthermore, vocational support will be promoted for young people scheduled to be

released from juvenile training schools or prisons and for juveniles under probation.

(Bullying and violence countermeasures)

In addition to promoting guidance for pupils and students who engage in problematic behavior and appropriate treatment for juveniles who perpetrate incidents, and to making efforts to prevent the recurrence of incidents, effective efforts that lead to prevention, early-stage detection and early response will also be promoted.

(iv) Response to problems of child poverty

(Support for families facing economic difficulties)

Based on the perspective that raising each and every child who will lead the next generation is not a problem just for individuals or for families, but is to be supported by society as a whole, child allowances will be put into effect.

Also, in elementary and secondary education, so that all children and young people who want to study do not abandon their preferred education for economic reasons, in addition to establishment of making upper secondary school free-of-charge in principle, school expense subsidies provided by municipalities will continue to be promoted. Moreover, efforts will also be made for necessary support measures in order to further reduce the economic burden of education.

With higher education, the burden on the learner is particularly great. Therefore, in addition to expanding scholarships, efforts will also be made to assist the tuition waiver measures implemented by universities and other institutions, as a substantial form of benefit-type financial assistance.

Furthermore, in addition to providing recipients of livelihood assistance with support for economic independence through work, learning assistance will also be provided to the children of the recipients.

(Support for single-parent families)

In order to balance childcare and work, support for raising children and doing housework will be given to single parents, such as through priority admission into day-care centers and the dispatch of home life support officers.

Also, various employment support measures will be promoted for single mothers, including the provision of integrated employment assistance services, the formulation of programs to support self-reliance, and the payment of benefits for acquiring knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, in addition to providing low-interest welfare loans for single mothers, and paying survivors' pension benefits through the public pension system, the child-rearing allowance will also be paid to single fathers. Moreover, the welfare supplement for children of single parents and for orphans will continue to be paid.

(Preventing the intergenerational chain of poverty)

Support will be provided for the schooling of children on the premise of self-reliance to prevent poverty from being carried on from generation to generation. An initiative will be examined whereby schools, day-care centers and other public facilities would be used, and people involved in education and welfare and local volunteers would cooperate to provide living support, learning support and family support for each and every child.

(Full understanding of the situation)

Regarding the rate of child poverty, necessary measures will be promoted, such as ascertaining the actual situation by continuing to conduct surveys.

(v) Creating places for children and young people facing difficulties

(Support for the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents)

In addition to making efforts to improve offenders rehabilitation facilities and self-reliance assistance homes, diverse forms of rehabilitation support will be promoted, such as creating places in cooperation with relevant organizations, schools, private-sector collaborators and people in the local community.

(Creating places for children in need of care)

As for children's homes, the establishment of small group care and small local children's homes will be promoted, and care that is in keeping with the development of children in need of care will be enriched.

(Creating places such as group homes)

Support will be provided for the creation of places such as group homes where children and young people, who aim to study or work once they have left their children's home, can live. Also, with regard to children who need protection from abuse and so forth, measures will be implemented so that appropriate temporary protection can be given.

(vi) Support for children and young people who need particular attention such as foreigners

(Improvement of education for non-Japanese children)

In addition to establishing systems at public schools for guidance in Japanese language, adjustment support will also be provided, such as the deployment of bilingual staff.

Also, efforts will be made to promote an examination into institutional support, such as the flexible design of curricula which takes into account the Japanese proficiency and so forth of non-Japanese students, and to promote the development of an environment in which it is easy for non-Japanese children to enter elementary schools and lower secondary schools, such as allowing children to enroll or transfer into schools and accepting them into lower year levels, even if they are past compulsory schooling age. In addition, school support will also be provided for foreign children, designed to facilitate their smooth transfer into public schools.

Moreover, improvements will be made to career guidance.

(Promotion of employment among young foreign residents)

In order to promote employment among young foreign residents including those of Japanese descent, as well as providing individual employment support, such as guidance on employment support, guidance on career awareness and vocational guidance, vocational training will also be provided.

(People with gender identity disorders)

Awareness-raising activities will be conducted to eliminate prejudices and discrimination against children and young people who need particular attention, such as those with gender identity disorders and those who are located in difficult situations because of their sexual orientation, and to increase understanding of them.

(Support for teenage parents)

Efforts will be made to improve the support for prospective teenage parents to continue their studies during pregnancy, and to improve counseling and support addressing their lack of knowledge and experience in the areas of childbirth and childcare.

(Children born out of wedlock)

Amendments to the Civil Code will continue to be examined on making the inheritance shares of children born out of wedlock equal with those of children born in wedlock.

(2) Prevention of suffering and the protection of children and young people

(Measures to prevent child abuse)

In order to prevent the incidence of child abuse, child-rearing support in local communities will be improved. In addition, meticulous support for families will be encouraged, including providing parents with information and learning opportunities on child rearing and improving counseling systems.

In addition to making efforts for the early-stage detection of child abuse and early responses through counseling, reporting and other means, efforts will also be made for promoting initiatives in cooperation with relevant organizations, and for promoting the establishment and strengthening the function of local municipal networks to protect children (local councils on measures for children who need protection). Efforts will also be made to strengthen the system of child guidance centers, such as by securing child welfare officers and other personnel who can provide counseling and support.

Furthermore, from the perspective of preventing child abuse and protecting the rights and interests of children, an examination will be promoted into how specifically restrictions on parental authority ought to be.

(Improvement of the social protection and care of children)

In order to respond to the increase and diversification of children requiring social protection and care, efforts will be made to promote fostering in the homelike

environment, such as by expanding the foster parent system and the project caring for and nurturing abused children in households of caregivers (family homes), and efforts will be made to improve the social protection and care of children, such as by revising the functions of facilities.

(Measures against crimes that harm the welfare of children and young people)

In order to prevent children and young people from becoming the victims of crime relating to child prostitution and child pornography, rigorous investigations and appropriate treatment will be conducted, in addition to conducting public announcements and awareness-raising activities for society as a whole.

In particular, with regard to measures for eliminating child pornography, in view of the increasing number of arrests for incidents of child pornography, the increasing number of child victims and demands from the international community, comprehensive measures will be implemented in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies, including the promotion of the people's movement for the elimination of child pornography, the promotion of measures to prevent the distribution of and access to images of child pornography on the Internet, and the early detection of child victims and promotion of support activities.

(Measures for children and young people who are the victims of crime and for their families)

Ongoing support activities by specialized staff will be promoted so as to provide treatment and to reduce a psychological burden for children and young people who are victims of crimes and to assist their recovery. Support will also be given to counseling, home visits, and provision of suitable environments, conducted through the cooperation of relevant organizations.

(Measures for the bullying and suicide)

In addition to promoting effective efforts in schools that lead to prevention of bullying and suicide, early-stage detection and early response as well as efforts in cooperation with relevant organizations, support will be provided for the establishment of counseling systems.

In view of the serious situation that Japan is the only country among the Group of Seven nations where suicide is the top cause of death among young people aged 15 to 34, efforts will be made to promote awareness-raising programs during "Suicide Prevention Week" and "Suicide Prevention Month," and to improve mental health promotion and counseling systems in local communities. In addition, based on the report of the "Project Team for Measures to Combat Suicide and Depression," improvements will be made to the gate-keeper functions and outreach (home-visit support) programs, mental healthcare reforms will be promoted, and efforts will be made to improve systems for preventing suicide.

(Education for the prevention of damage)

Safety education will be promoted in order for children and young people to cultivate skills so that they can protect themselves and others from dangers such as criminal damage, traffic accidents and natural disasters.

Efforts will be promoted to prevent children and young people from becoming either victims or perpetrators through having them acquire media literacy and cultivate information ethics.

Education and awareness-raising activities will be promoted for children and young people to acquire knowledge on labor laws and the rights of workers.

Consumer education for children and young people will be enhanced in order to prevent them from becoming caught up in consumer-related problems, and to support them to behave in a voluntary and rational manner.

Efforts will be made to enrich prevention awareness in order to prevent children and young people from becoming either perpetrators or victims of violence against women.

3. Improve the environment for the healthy development of children and young people to be supported by society as a whole

(1) Environmental improvements

(i) Rebuilding of relationships among families, schools, and local communities

(a) “Open Homes” initiative, providing support for guardians

(Support for home education)

Support will be provided for community initiatives regarding home education, such as the development of appropriate human resources, the provision of learning opportunities and information, and the improvement of counseling systems. In implementing these initiatives, cooperation will be promoted among local human resources, commissioned welfare volunteers, child welfare volunteers, schools, school counselors, school social workers and so on. Also, efforts will be made to revitalize each of the community initiatives aimed at improving the educational capacity of families, as well as to promote further public understanding of the importance of home education.

(Support for the diversification of fostering)

Examination will be given to enriching support that takes into account the diversification of fostering such as of foster parents and children.

(b) Development of “Open Schools” through the utilization of both internal and external strengths

(Revitalization of schools that are united with families and communities)

Proactive efforts to support schools through volunteer activities by local residents will

be promoted, such as the establishment of “regional headquarters for school support.”

Efforts will be made to promote the establishment of the “community school” system (a school administration council system), under which the development of schools is advanced with parents, guardians and other local residents participating in the running of schools.

(Improvement of education and counseling systems and functions)

Examination will be given to a policy for improving the quality of teachers comprehensively, and by enhancing systematic measures through each stage of teacher training, recruitment and development, teachers will be secured who have a sense of mission, an area of expertise and individuality, and who have the capacity to properly meet the challenges in the classroom.

Counseling systems in schools will be established and improved, such as staffing school counselors and school social workers.

(c) Establishment of places and various activities for after-school

(Promotion of the After-School Plan for Children)

With regard to such initiatives as the After-School Plan for Children (after-school children’s clubs, after-school classes for children), comprehensive measures for dealing with children after school will be promoted.

In particular, efforts will be made to meet the potential needs of those who want to work, and to expanding the number of children who are accepted so that people who want to make use of after-school children’s clubs are able to receive their required services.

(Creating places for lower and upper secondary school students to go after school)

Places will be created where lower and upper secondary school students can have a safe and enjoyable time after school. Support will be provided for the gathered students to participate in the local community.

(Creating places for various experience and exchange activities)

Efforts will be made to promote the improvement of youth education facilities and city parks, where children and young people can engage in hands-on activities such as experiences in nature and overnight group trips, and to promote the development and improvement of community-based sports clubs. In addition, natural parks, woodlands and waterfront locations along rivers and the seacoast will be preserved and developed.

(Improvement of libraries and other facilities)

Efforts will be made to promote the improvement of library and community center environments so that they can serve as facilities that are convenient and readily accessible for local residents. In schools, in order to enhance the opportunities for children to enjoy reading, efforts will be made to improve school libraries and to promote the appointment of teacher-librarians.

(d) Urban planning by which the crimes hardly occur that victimize children and young people

(Urban planning by which the crimes hardly occur that victimize children and young people)

Efforts will be made to promote the urban planning which takes crime prevention into consideration, including the installation of security lights and security cameras and the landscaping that does not impede visibility on the basis of the result of safety inspections in schools and along routes to and from schools.

(Development of an environment conducive to going out and playing outside with a sense of security)

Efforts will be made to promote a barrier-free environment that is conducive to anyone being able to go out in comfort and with peace of mind. This barrier-free policy will apply to roads, off-street parking places, parks, government offices, and public transportation. Additionally, environments in which children can play safely will be maintained through safety inspections of playground equipment in parks and other measures.

(ii) Promotion of the efforts of various entities

(a) Improvement of counseling systems

(Child & Youth Counseling Center)

Support will be provided, such as the enrichment of training and the introduction of best practices, in order that systems can be ensured which serve the functions of a center (Child & Youth Counseling Center), where advice is given on the development and support for children and young people, and where referrals to relevant organizations are made, and other necessary information and advice is given.

(Ombudspersons and other child counseling systems)

Efforts will be made for the dissemination of systems whereby counseling is provided to children and young people and to their families, necessary investigations are conducted, and resolutions for problems are put forward in coordination with relevant organizations from detached standpoint such as ombudspersons.

(b) Promotion of efforts by private-sector groups

(Promotion of national campaigns and other initiatives)

Efforts will be made to foster an atmosphere as a national campaign in which local governments, academic experts and concerned persons in the private sector can work on the development and support for children and young people in a coordinated and cooperative manner.

To do this, in addition to providing support for the initiatives of various entities (see

Annex), opportunities will be provided so that individuals from all walks of life and all levels of society can exchange information and opinions and can otherwise cooperate as necessary.

(Promotion of activities through the “New Public Commons” which support children and young people)

Based on the proposals by the “New Public Commons” Roundtable, the government will take the following measures:

- improving tax system such as introducing income tax deductions when making donations, revising NPO certification standards, and allowing local governments to designate NPOs subject to donation tax deductions
- expanding cultivation of human resources to undertake social activities
- supporting activities in local communities which support children and young people and building of their associated networks.

(iii) Strengthening the functionality of relevant organizations, and developing various supporters to implement measures at the local level

(a) Training and securing specialists

(Medical and healthcare professionals)

In addition to promoting measures for securing pediatricians and obstetricians, measures for securing nursing staff, including public health nurses and midwives, will also be implemented in a comprehensive manner.

(Child welfare professionals)

In addition to efforts to ensure necessary systems with regard to nursery teachers, child welfare officers and other staff at child welfare institutions and child guidance centers, efforts will also be made to enhance training and improve expertise.

(Specialists in adolescent psychology)

Doctors, public health nurses, nurses, psychiatric social workers, clinical psychologists and so on will be the focus of endeavors for the training of specialists who are capable of handling mental health problems that occur during childhood and adolescence.

Efforts will be made to strengthen the professional expertise of mental health workers in correctional institutions through the enhancement of various forms of training.

(Professionals in the area of juvenile guidance and the treatment of juvenile delinquents)

In addition to ensuring an appropriate number of juvenile guidance officials and making efforts to develop talents and nurture specialists in juvenile consultation, efforts will also be made to enhance the leadership capabilities of instructors of the Ministry of Justice and probation officers

(b) Development of various supporters to implement measures at the local level

(Development of youth leaders)

At youth-related organizations, support will be provided to activities that are conducted for the purpose of developing youth leaders playing a central role in society. Additionally, the cultivation and training of hands-on activity instructors as well as nature commentators and guides will also be promoted.

(Securing private-sector collaborators)

Efforts will be made to secure human resources from a wide range of ages and fields for private-sector collaborators such as volunteer probation officers, Human Rights Volunteers, child welfare volunteers, juvenile police volunteers, and maternal and child health promoters. Their training will also be enhanced.

Efforts will also be made to secure collaborators, including companies and individual owner-managers, for the employment of young people such as NEETs, juveniles who have lapsed into delinquency, and persons with disabilities.

(Peer counseling and support by members of the same or adjacent generations)

Counseling and support services will be enhanced by promoting the introduction of student volunteers who are of either the same or adjacent generation. Counseling activities by people of similar generations who share the same values (peer counseling) will be popularized. Furthermore, cooperation will be provided as necessary in order to encourage youth volunteer activities that support the independence of juveniles who have problems with delinquency or other troubles.

(Networks of children and young people)

Information and other kinds of support will be provided for the formation and strengthening of networks comprised of children and young people, such as those in which children and young people provide assistance to others in their generation.

(iv) Improvement of child-rearing support

(Efforts aimed at achieving a society that supports children and child-raising)

Based on the “Vision for Children and Childcare,” policies will be promoted, such as for assistance for families raising children through the creation of child allowances for instance, and for the improvement of infrastructure for day-care services, which include day-care and after-school measures designed to eliminate children on the waiting list for admission to day-care centers, and community child-rearing support.

Examination will also be given to the building of a new comprehensive and unified system for supporting the raising of the next generations, which includes promoting the integration of the functions of kindergartens and day-care centers.

(v) Measures to counter the harmful environments surrounding children and young

people

(Appropriate enforcement of the Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People)

Based on the so-called “Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People,”¹ related measures will be promoted, such as education and awareness-raising activities on appropriate Internet use by young people, improving the performance and disseminating the use of filtering software, and support for the efforts of private bodies. In addition to making efforts to grasp the situation on the illegal information and harmful information on the Internet, and to investigate strictly on malicious unlawful acts attributable to this information, requests to remove such information will be actively made to providers and site administrators. Furthermore, efforts for voluntary restraints on all information harmful to young people will be promoted, not just information that is viewable and accessible on the Internet. Support will also be provided for efforts in homes, such as the creation of rules between parents and children on the use of games and so forth.

In order to prevent child victims resulting from the use of online dating sites, the so-called “Online Dating Site Regulation Act”² will be effectively applied, and investigations on malicious site administrators will be promoted.

(Addressing problems associated with cell phones)

Efforts will be made to promote an assessment of the current status of cell phone usage by children and young people, clarification of policies for the treatment of cell phones in schools, and the establishment of a system to monitor the situation throughout society.

(Regulation of sex-related special businesses)

With regard to sex-related special businesses, there will be an active investigation on acts in violation of related laws and regulations.

(Prohibition on the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors)

Appeals will be made to related industries, such as calling for stronger and more thorough age checks at the time the alcohol or tobacco is sold. Violations of the law will be investigated as necessary and punished appropriately.

(2) Reconsider of how our adult society should be

(Reconsider of employment and labor)

In addition to enabling workers to shift from non-regular employment to regular employment according to their willingness and capacity, measures to counter non-regular

¹ Act on Development of an Environment that Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People (Act No. 79 of 2008)

² Act on Regulating Enticement of Children through Websites for Social Networking of Opposite Sexes (Act No. 83 of 2003)

employment will be promoted, such as enabling fair treatment and opportunities for skills development to be ensured regardless of the form of employment.

At the same time, so that workers can have quality time with their families, an active approach to promotion and support measures will be taken aimed at realizing a “work-life balance,” such as fostering an atmosphere through national campaigns, building institutional frameworks and making environmental improvements. In addition, efforts will also be promoted for the realization of decent work (rewarding and humane jobs).

(Promotion of activities for interaction with infants)

Hands-on activities will be promoted, such as where lower and upper secondary school students put themselves in the place of parents and actually have contact with, play with and willingly look after infants.

(Treatment of parents and guardians who have perpetrated abuse)

Efforts will be made to improve support for strengthening family reintegration and the child-raising functions of families, and to strengthen home assistance.

Also, research and studies will be advanced on the methods of guidance for parents and guardians who have perpetrated abuse.

(Guidance and advice for parents of juveniles in juvenile training schools)

Efforts will be made to improve and strengthen appropriate measures, such as providing effective guidance and advice to parents and guardians of juveniles in juvenile training schools.

Efforts will be made to make the parents and guardians of juveniles under probation aware of their responsibilities regarding the custody of the child and to improve their custodial capabilities, such as by holding acceptor's meetings.

(Promotion of understanding about the importance of families and communities)

Efforts will be made to promote understanding about the importance of families and communities, such as through awareness-raising during “family day” and “family week,” and through giving recognition to community or business efforts.

IV. Framework for the promotion of future measures

(1) Ascertaining the state of affairs and other aspects related to children and young people, and collecting and sharing information

(Survey research)

Survey research will be promoted so that full utilization of objective and wide-ranging information can be factored into the process of planning, formulating, and implementing measures to develop and support children and young people. The survey research will cover such aspects as the conditions and awareness of children and young people and their parents/guardians with respect to their physical and mental condition, the environment in

which they are brought up, delinquency and their social independence.

During the survey research, actual conditions for each gender will be assessed. In addition, given that the development and support for children and young people and the resolution of problems are areas that require involvement across a broad spectrum of fields, survey research will be improved by pursuing an interdisciplinary and international approach that cuts across administrative lines.

(Creating an environment for sharing and utilizing survey data)

In order to facilitate active utilization of the survey data and opinions that are obtained through the survey research, the creation of mechanisms for uniform management of the survey data and other information will be encouraged. Proper administration of secondary usage of statistical data will also be addressed.

(2) Public announcements and awareness-raising activities

(Public announcements, awareness-raising activities, provision of information)

Public announcements, awareness-raising activities, and information provision will be undertaken in order to further public understanding of and cooperation with issues related to the development and support for children and young people, such as child-rearing support, improvement of physical fitness, respect for the human rights of children and young people, suicide prevention, crime prevention, prevention of delinquency, rehabilitation and other support for children and young people facing difficulties. These efforts will include the designation of awareness months as well as activities conducted through coordination and cooperation with entities in the private sector.

Additional efforts will focus on dissemination about the Convention on the Rights of the Child, so that activities can be undertaken which accord with the tenor of the convention.

Furthermore, the provision of information oriented toward children and young people will also be undertaken so that various types of information will reach children and young people easily and be readily understandable by them.

In addition to the above, public announcements of information concerning measures to develop and support children and young people will be made in a timely and appropriate manner.

(3) International coordination and cooperation

(Cooperation with the activities of international organizations)

Japan will participate proactively in child-related conventions, action plans, and other undertakings of the United Nations and other international organizations. Additionally, the public in Japan will be informed of the content of those endeavors, and mutual exchange and other forms of international cooperation will be promoted.

(Collection and dissemination of information)

Information related to the status of other countries' measures to develop and support children and young people will be gathered and made available. Japan will also disseminate information on its own domestic measures to other countries.

(4) Promotion of measures

(Promoting coordination and collaboration among relevant national government agencies in Japan)

Close coordination and cooperation among the relevant administrative agencies and good policy coordination will be pursued in order to advance measures based on this Vision in a comprehensive and effective manner. The Headquarters for Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People will be at the center of this process, which will take place under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Japan.

Close coordination and cooperation will also be pursued among local governments.

(Promotion of community initiatives)

In communities, local governments, the private sector, academic experts and other relevant persons will be urged to develop various systems concerning the development and support for children and young people. Furthermore, improvements to initiatives will be promoted nationwide, such as through the provision of information on cases of advanced initiatives.

(Examination and evaluation of the implementation of the relevant measures)

In order for an examination and evaluation to be conducted on the implementation status of measures to develop and support children and young people based on this Vision, a system will be established under the Headquarters for Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People, through which examinations and evaluations can be conducted while seeking the opinions of experts and of children and young people.

(Hearings to solicit the opinions of children and young people)

Hearings to solicit the opinions of the public, including children and young people themselves, will be conducted as appropriate, and these opinions will be reflected in the planning, formulation and implementation of measures to develop and support children and young people.

Practical examples will be presented so that efforts for soliciting the opinions of children and young people can also be advanced at local governments.

(Review of the Vision)

A review of this Vision will be held in approximately five years.

Examples of community initiatives and national campaigns related to develop
and support children and young people

(Examples concerning support for the self-development of children and young people, and their social development and social participation)

- Various hands-on activities, including environmental learning, experiences in nature, overnight group trips, sporting activities, artistic and traditional cultural experiences, and creative activities such as dance
- Intergenerational exchange and interregional exchange activities, international exchange activities
- “Human Rights Flower Campaign” to promote the preciousness of life and spirit of sympathy
- Campaigns promoting eating education (including promotion of well-balanced diets, customary phrases before and after eating, and the local consumption of locally produced goods)
- “Early to bed, early to rise, having breakfast” national campaign
- Measures to promote reading (including the campaign for reading books out loud to children)
- Volunteer activities
(including revitalization of local communities through welfare activities, the carrying on of traditional cultures, and participation in events)

(Examples concerning the health and security of children and young people and child-rearing)

- Group care in collaboration with municipal health centers and public health centers for mothers experiencing parenting difficulties
- Parent-child clubs, classes on fathering, cooking classes for dads
(promotion of the exchange of information between families raising children, and prevention of parents becoming isolated)
- Exchange events in local communities for parents and children to participate together
- Creating places for children, and temporary care services (such as utilizing empty shops in shopping malls)
- “Mental health promotion classes” targeting elementary school children
- Activities on drug abuse prevention
- “No, absolutely No!” publicity campaign
- “Sukoyaka Family 21” national campaign

(Examples concerning support for the vocational independence and employment of children

and young people)

- Activities aimed at improving career education
(Work experience and internships in local communities in cooperation with schools, local industries and parents/guardians)

(Examples concerning support for children and young people facing difficulties)

- Vocational independence support activities for NEETs and other young people
- Counseling and independence support activities for social recluses and other such young people
- Counseling activities for truant pupils and students
- Support activities aimed at the independence and social participation of children and young people with disabilities
- Counseling activities for juvenile delinquents and their families
- Prevention of juvenile delinquency and rehabilitation support activities (including volunteer activities such as street patrols and cleanup work)
- Rehabilitation support activities for drug dependents and their families (including peer counseling)
- Japanese language guidance and other support activities for ensuring good study habits, aimed at facilitating transfers into public schools for foreign children
- Employment support activities for young foreign residents

(Examples concerning the prevention of suffering and the protection of children and young people)

- “Orange Ribbon campaign” for the prevention of child abuse
- Counseling activities such as for the prevention and early-stage detection of child abuse
- National campaigns aimed at eliminating child pornography
- Movements to prevent children from criminal damage (including community activities to watch over the safety of children)
- Support activities for children who have lost their parents in traffic accidents or to suicide, and for victims of crime

(Examples concerning measures to counter the harmful environments surrounding children and young people)

- Awareness-raising campaigns for the development of a better environment for Internet use for young people
(“Motto Good Net” activity, “Wait a sec! Before you use that mobile...,” “e-Net Caravan,” “Slogan for the Safe and Secure Use of Information and Communications,” and campaigns for the disseminating of filtering)

- Measures to counter the excessive exposure to various media (including “No TV days” and “No gaming days”)

(Examples concerning social circumstances and wide-ranging issues)

- Measures to promote work-life balance
(“Change! JPN” campaign, diverse and flexible working patterns, such as shortening of working hours)
- national campaigns for the development of youths
- Movements to encourage people to talk to and greet each other
- Promotion of network activities to watch over and nurture children

Glossary

Children and young people, etc.

Child (children): A person in early childhood, of elementary school age or in adolescence.

Young person (people): A person in adolescence or young adulthood.

Some measures also include persons aged fewer than 40 who are in their post-young adulthood.

Youth (youths): A person from early childhood to young adulthood. In order to clarify that support covers a wide range of people, from early childhood to post-young adulthood, the expression “children and young people” has been used instead of the term “youths.”

- * Early childhood refers to the period up until a person reaches the age of compulsory attendance at school
- * Elementary school age refers to the age at which children attend elementary school
- * Adolescence refers to the age from lower secondary school to roughly 18 years of age
- * Depending on the measure, adolescents may correspond to both of children and young people as a period of transition from being a child to being a young person.
- * Young adulthood refers to the time from roughly 18 years of age to 29.
- * Post-young adulthood refers to people aged fewer than 40 who have passed young adulthood, and who are continuing their efforts such as at university to foster talents and skills to support and develop different areas of society, or who are having difficulties in leading smooth lives in society.
- * Other terms have also been defined by laws, regulations and so forth. Where appropriate, these terms have been used in this document.