

Annual Report 2011

April 2011 to March 2012



Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International
(DPI-Japan)

Abstract of DPI-Japan's Annual Report 2011

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1. Earthquake Relief Activities

A year and half has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 and public attention has been diminishing. Many persons with disabilities were affected and are still facing countless difficulties. Particularly persons with severe disabilities are suffering from shortage of personal assistants, who are leaving the disaster affected areas due to Fukushima nuclear accident.

DPI-Japan has established "Relief Headquarters for Persons with Disabilities of Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquake" in collaboration with Japan Council on Independent Living Centers and Yume Kaze Fund, and engaged in supportive activities for persons with disabilities through "Focal Relief Centers for persons with disabilities," in 3 disaster affected prefectures. DPI-Japan has also submitted urgent request and proposals to the government in collaboration with JDF (Japan Disability Forum) Headquarters for the Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities hit by the Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquakes.

DPI-Japan continues support activities towards the regeneration of society where everybody is taken cared.

2. International Cooperation

The 8th World Assembly was held in Durban, South Africa in October, 2011. About 1,200 people from 66 countries joined the assembly. 46 persons from Japan participated and 5 persons gave presentations at sectional meetings. As for "Incheon Goals and Targets", DPI-Japan was involved in a workshop in August, 2011 and ESCAP experts conference in December, 2011. Shoji Nakanishi, as DPAI-AP Chairperson participated in ESCAP government forum as one of Civil Society Organization (CSO).

The training courses under the name of "Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities for African Countries - Independent Living Program" which was entrusted from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was conducted for anglophone and francophone countries respectively.

JICA grass-root cooperation Project "HIV/AIDS education for persons with disabilities through capacity development of deaf organization (Tanpopo Project)" in Brazil finished in September, 2011 and Phase 2 will be continued until March, 2013. In October, three members of the project came to Japan for counterpart training.

In October, DPI-Japan accepted trainees from central Asian countries for one week in Tokyo. Those trainees were in JICA regional training that DPI-Hokkaido entrusted, named "Promotion of mainstreaming and empowerment of PWD in Central Asia." And also in fiscal year 2011, as in every year, we accepted trainees of Duskin leadership training.

3. Political Participation

DPI-Japan has sent members to various government committees.

The Committee for Disability Policy Reform which established in December, 2009, aiming at making road map for ratification of UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), finished in March, 2012. Based on the revised Basic Law for Disabled Persons, the Committee will be reprogrammed as "the Committee for Disability Policy". DPI-Japan has made best effort to promote policy reform in the Committee. It is necessary to make the achievements and remained issues useful in coming future committee.

Main topics discussed in the Committee in this year were on the revised Basic Law for Disabled Persons and Great East Japan Earthquake. Based on “the second proposal to promote disability policy reform” which was decided in December 2010, whole JDF members lobbied to each political party. While some achievements such as recognition of sign language as language and establishment of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform were done as results of lobbying, some issues such as deletion of the word “as much as possible” in realization of community life and inclusive education and in reduction of compulsory hospitalization of persons with psychiatric disabilities still remains.

DPI-Japan edited and published a book named “A first step: Revised Basic Law for Disabled Persons – Change in community” on April 20, 2012.

The issue on relief operation was discussed in the Committee for Disability Policy Reform twice. The Committee checked the current situation, future revision of disaster prevention plan and the importance of participation of persons with disabilities in recovery plan.

The Panel for Anti-discrimination Law under the Committee for Disability Policy Reform has had 16 meetings since November 2011 and prepared “Interim Draft on focal points of Anti-discrimination Law” in March 2012. Discussion will be continued to finalize a framework proposal in August 2012.

Ordinances of Anti-discrimination against Persons with Disabilities were enacted in prefectural governments of Hokkaido, Chiba, Iwate and Kumamoto. Ordinances are also being enacted in municipal governments such as Saitama where 28th DPI-Japan annual assembly will be held, and Hachioji. Similar efforts are being made in Okinawa, Kobe City, Tokyo, Hyogo and Ibaraki. All of them was made due to strong lobbying activities of DPI-Japan members.

The Panel for Comprehensive Welfare Service, that is also under the Committee for Disability Policy Reform, had 18 meetings and finalized “The proposal on framework of Comprehensive Welfare Service Law (framework proposal)” as the collective opinion of 55 panel members. JDF general forum was conducted on October 28 to claim the legislation of the law based on the framework proposal with over 10,000 participants. Regional forums has also actively conducted and written opinions were adopted in municipal assemblies.

Responding to the draft law submitted by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in 2012 February, discussion was done in the working team on disability of labour division of the Democratic Party of Japan. Consequently, draft of the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities was prepared and approved in the Cabinet in 2012 March. Since the difference between the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities and the framework proposal which was prepared in The Panel for Comprehensive Welfare Service is still big, we need make continuous effort toward realization of the framework proposal which requests personal assistance system, review of payment regulation and so on.

Negotiation with Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in collaboration with the Executive Committee for the Campaign which requests realization of lives in communities for persons with disabilities was done in June 2011 and February 2012. For the court case of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act, DPI-Japan and Japan Council on Disability (JD) established “Association for complete realization of basic agreement of the lawsuit of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act” and support the plaintiffs. We also have made statements for Anti-Poverty Campaign, “Local Sovereignty Reform” and System of Children and Childcare and so on.

For theoretical study, conferences of Project Team for Comprehensive Welfare Law for Persons with Disabilities has been held and discussed on the issues such as payment system, consultation support, personal assistance, transition to communities, environmental arrangement, implementation process of new laws, the Panel for Comprehensive Welfare Service and the framework proposal.

4. Research and Development

17th National Conference on Disability Policy Research, which has been held for long years, was held in December. The current status of disability policy reform and its challenges were mainly discussed. DPI-Japan will start “Conference on Disability Policy Making” from 2012 and move forward.

As for traffic accessibility, DPI-Japan has been reviewing Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons, etc. (New Barrier Free law) and has occasionally protested against refusal in public transportation. The persons in charge had periodical meetings for information exchange and policy discussion. 5th Training program for persons with disabilities on Barrier free (Barrier free training) was held in Kansai region.

As for education, executives of DPI-Japan have been played roles of co-chairperson and Secretary-General of Network to promote ratification of CRPD and inclusive education network for realization of inclusive education (Inclusive Network). In order to establish inclusive education policy, DPI-Japan attended the Special Committee for the Special Support Education which is in the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Working Group for reasonable accommodation and environmental arrangement study and asked for opinions at public comments after “the Direction of basic guidelines for disability policy reform (the first primary report)” was decided in the Cabinet. Lobbying to the Parliamentarian League to promote inclusive education and other members of the Diet was done and assemblies in councilors’ hall were also held.

In the framework proposal, the Panel for Comprehensive Welfare Service suggested to establish “Employment Support Center for Persons with Disabilities” and “Day Activity Center” to promote employment of persons with disabilities. The Panel also requested to initiate pilot study of various working ways of persons with disabilities such as social employment.

In the draft Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities, employment support was included in the items which are to be revised. In response to this action, DPI-Japan has held study meetings and lobbied to the related Diet members on the issue of pilot study implementation. We also observed three meetings on employment of persons with disabilities regarding “Range of disabilities”, “Response to CRPD” and “Employment support at local communities”.

DPI-Japan has requested to realize the society in which everyone with any disabilities can live in communities safely. On the other hand, legislation of “death with dignity” suddenly came up and is being promoted by multiparty “Parliamentarian League of legislation of death with dignity”, which submitted the draft law in 2012 March. DPI-Japan, which objects to the law, made an emergency statement and demanded a retraction of the draft law in the hearing of the general assembly of “Parliamentarian League of legislation of death with dignity”. Lobbying to the councilors and assemblies in councilors’ hall were conducted in order to stop the bill to put on the agenda.

Survey report “Challenges of Women with disabilities – multiple difficulties in their lives” was conducted by DPI-Japan and DPI Women with disabilities Network with support of the Kirin Foundation. It was the first survey on this issue and met with a large response. The report shall be utilized for revision of Basic Law for Disabled Persons and other reforms in the future.

DPI Hokkaido, which employs youth with disabilities taking gender balance into consideration, implemented projects entrusted by JICA Sapporo and participated in local government’s policy making. The first JDF regional forum in Tokyo was held. Member groups of DPI-Japan have been playing big roles in local activities like Aichi Disability Forum and Osaka Disability Forum.

5. Other Activities

Braille Printing Division took orders from various companies and organizations including DPOs, Labor Unions, the Committee for Disability Policy Reform, the Panel for Anti-discrimination Law, universities, companies, and local governments. These works played important roles of information accessibility for persons with visual impairments.

DPI Advocacy Center of Persons with Disabilities is receiving voices of persons with disabilities everyday to support their rights. There are 5 workers in the center. Number of cases increased doubly due to a rise of consciousness of rights and evacuation from the Great East Japan Earthquake. The center also will continuously support the court case in which a persons with disability was refused to use an internet cafe.

DPI Japan has been doing its publicity action trough journals, webpage and mail magazine. Our brochure was renewed with latest information such as progress in the Committee for Disability Policy Reform and relief operations for the Great East Japan Earthquake.

DPI-Japan has done fundraising inside and outside the country since establishment of Relief Headquarters for Persons with Disabilities of Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquake. We use tax exemption system for Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation. In March 2012, the Boeing Company decided financial support to DPI-Japan's relief operation.

While this relief operation broadened the range of our activities and purpose, other activities have less financial supports.