

Annual Report 2013

April 2013 to March 2014



Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International

(DPI-Japan)

Abstract of DPI-Japan's Annual Report 2013

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1. Earthquake Relief Activities

Three years have passed since the Relief Headquarters for Persons with Disabilities of Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquake (hereinafter referred to as the Headquarters) started the relief activities for disaster-affected persons with disabilities in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011. The Focal Relief Centers in disaster affected areas, namely Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima continue the relief activities to develop new social capital, exploring the way to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. Independent Center Kamaishi, Iwate, which AJU, a membership organization of DPI-Japan established in the disaster-affected area, had nonprofit corporate status and started its business in Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities.

Transportation service, which is most required in each area, is currently provided for nearly 100 cases per month using lift vans with support from Boeing Co.. DPI-Japan submitted our opinion on transportation service at the NPO-Ministries Joint Consultation on Reconstruction. Public viewing of the documentary film: namely, "Those who are left behind – Persons with disabilities in 3.11" compiled in February 2013 were promoted around the nation, and was sold for 1457 sets.

2. International Cooperation

DPI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly has committed itself since drafting Incheon strategy and as a Civil Society Organization, been following-up the progress of the new Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013 – 2022). Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly also initiated capacity building project of Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) in Indochina with support from Abilis Foundation, Finland. The UN High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development took place in New York on September 23, 2013, each government delegates as well as DPOs all around the world assembled to request disability mainstreaming in post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which expires in 2015. DPI conducted a side event titled "Eradicating Extreme Poverty: Addressing the disability disconnect," in which 2 secretariats from DPI-Japan attended. In

In June 2013, the training course 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. Total 11 trainees including leaders with disabilities and government officials from 7 countries participated in this training. At the time of the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), DPI-Japan conducted a side event including reports of each trainee. In November, DPI-Japan accepted trainees from Central Asian countries for one week in Tokyo. They were the trainees of JICA regional training that DPI-Hokkaido Local Assembly (DPI-Hokkaido) entrusted, named "Promotion of mainstreaming and

empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Central Asia.”

And as in every year, we also accepted the trainees from Asia who participated in Duskin leadership training. Promoting global discussions on post-2015 development goals, we suggested the needs of inclusion of persons with disabilities into new development strategies through the collaboration with Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Japan.

As an emergency response for the typhoon Hayen (locally called Yolanda)-affected people with disabilities in the Philippines, which occurred in November 8, 2013, DPI-Japan dispatched the study team in February 2014 and is preparing for wheelchairs provision in collaboration with Yumekaze Foundation.

3. Political Participation

In the process to harmonize the domestic laws with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Act to eliminate the discrimination against Persons with Disabilities established in June 2013. DPI-Japan has been actively making efforts to make the Draft through symposium with parties and lobbying in collaboration with other Disabled Persons’ Organizations. In Osaka in the end of May, and in Tokyo in July 5, the rallies to request the law establishment were conducted. As the results of all those efforts, the Diet passed the bill on June 19, 2013.

On January 20, 2014, at last, Japan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as the 141st state party, and it came into effect on February 19. DPI-Japan has committed itself positively to all the process of realization of the convention since the UN 1st Ad-hoc meeting in 2002. Recognizing this as our great achievement, it is necessary to take initiative to lead the second round of further policy reform at national level.

The Commission for Disability Policy, which was reprogrammed of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform in the Cabinet Office, has had 11 meetings since its establishment in 2012. The Commission concluded its suggestions for the Disability Basic Plan and the guidelines of implementation of the Act to Eliminate Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities after its establishment in June 2013.

4. Research and Development

The Act to Eliminate Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities is a great achievement for us since its establishment is what DPI-Japan has made efforts for long years. It is first time to have the word “Discrimination” in the name of the acts to prohibit discrimination in some reasons. This act prohibits “discriminatory treatment” and “denial of reasonable accommodation.” Recognizing this success, we have to aim to make this act effective and eliminate the gap between this act and the opinions of the Commission for Disability Policy, the proposal of the Panel for Anti-discrimination Law, and the similar

laws in progressive foreign countries. Through the Commission DPI-Japan is expressing our opinions for the guidelines of this act, which the Cabinet Office prepares, and making collaboration with the ministries.

During 2013, anti-discrimination ordinances at local level established in Nagasaki, Okinawa, Kyoto, Kagoshima, Ibaraki and Beppu City. It is important to develop Dispute Settlement Bodies at local level for discrimination and abuse prevention as well as compatibility with the Act to Eliminate Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

In November 2013, a serious abuse case occurred in which a young man with intellectual disabilities in a Chiba Prefectural Social Welfare Corporation-operated institution was abused, and he died later. As soon as the case revealed, In collaboration with People First Tokyo, DPI-Japan visited Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Chiba Prefectural office, police department and Administration office of the Prefectural Social Welfare Corporation. We requested in writing thorough investigation, punishment of responsible persons and closure of the institution.

Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities came into effect in April, 2013 expanding its target persons with intractable diseases included. However only the persons with the diseases listed in the law are targeted and the persons who are not eligible in existing service system still remain. In 2014, visiting care for persons with severe disabilities will be expanded for more people. Care home and Group home for the persons who need supports will be integrated. The classification of disability level will be modified as “the classification of support level.” DPI-Japan has attended and proposed our opinions as a committee in the Panel of Community Living promotion of persons with disabilities. We succeeded to abolish the proposal that the activity support service is the precondition to start to use visiting care for persons with severe disabilities. The idea to increase of capacity in number of users of group home also was abolished. There still are issues to tackle such as that persons with dysfunctional behaviors whose points are under 10 cannot use visiting care for persons with severe disabilities. In addition, installation plan to develop large group homes and small institutions is promoted again in the name of Support Center for community living. In the Panel for guideline of medical care for persons with psychiatric disabilities, the concept of “residential facilities converted from psychiatric wards” has brought up again. Regarding these movement as a revival of institutionalization, DPI-Japan has strongly resisted this idea. We requested the new payment system in accordance with individual need at the public comment for “the classification of support level.”

Review of the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities 2 years later is the opportunity to realize the payment system based on personal assistance and consultation model which was proposed in the the Draft Framework. With this in mind, in collaboration with the Executive Committee for the Campaign, DPI-Japan has negotiated with Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in June 2013 and February 2014. Spontaneously the project team on the service system and the project team of the Executive

Committee for the Campaign have been in action.

DPI-Japan also attended the assembly of “the Association for complete realization of basic agreement of the lawsuit of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act” in Councilors’ Hall.

In the Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons, etc. (New Barrier Free law), the Guidelines for Promoting Smooth Transportation plans to be practically downgraded. In December 2nd, we had a negotiation with Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and urged claims of the issue of Nankai railway, which increases unmanned stations. Negotiation with Civil Aviation Bureau is done concurrently. The 7th Training program for persons with disabilities on Barrier free (Barrier free training) was held in Tokyo. The Tokyo Committee of Transportation Campaign played a role of operation and 20 trainees with disabilities gathered across the country. In 2013, there were several cases of service denial such as National Confectionary Exposition in Hiroshima and a franchised hair salon. Following the decision of Tokyo Olympic/Paralympic 2020, DPI-Japan established a project team to improve the universal design of buildings and customer service for persons with disabilities. In October 2013, an electric wheelchair user dropped from a wheelchair accessible escalator in a subway station and severely injured. We requested thorough investigation, prevention of recurrence of the accident and compensation for the victim.

In October 2013, the Ordinance for Enforcement of the School Education Act was revised. DPI-Japan collaborated with the Network to promote ratification of CRPD and inclusive education network for realization of inclusive education (Inclusive Network) for lobbying to the Japanese Parliamentary Group and besides appealed for public comment submissions. From the view of establishing inclusive education, progress has been limited to inadequate revisions. Following changes, it is essential to understand the attending school decision systems across schools in each region. As for higher education, the contents from the Report on Learning Support for Students with Disabilities (the 1st Conclusion) were elaborated. Anticipated guidelines and an outline for Act to Eliminate Discrimination have already been created in the form of a Q&A.

An amendment of the Disabled People Employment Promotion Act was undertaken, and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare’s Labor Policy Council held a separate meeting to discuss employment of persons with disabilities. Under this session, a panel was set up to examine current guidelines for anti-discrimination and the providing of reasonable accommodation. With these guidelines based on the Revised Disabled People Employment Promotion Act, the panel has met 9 times to date. To support the panel, DPI-Japan holds advance study sessions with the council members as needed. Also, regarding the review of employment assistance in the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities, the Executive Committee for the Campaign was taken to negotiate with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. We requested a general review of the current employment support system, and also called for the inclusion of relevant persons from local

governments in the review process.

We took several actions against the revision of the Public Assistance Act, which promotes the reinforcement of the family's duty to support, and would see the base amount for welfare benefits decrease. We joined gatherings and rallies organized by the "STOP! Reduction in Public Assistance Standard" movement, and made speeches at assemblies in Councilors' Hall. We also helped to publicize the efforts of nationwide welfare hot-lines. At the third meeting of the Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities, we discussed income security, starting with the issue of foreigners with disabilities and no pension. However, things were limited to talking about customary measures for supporting financial independence.

An August 2013 report from the National Assembly on the Reform of the Social Security System contained expressions like "Quality of Death (QOD)", and efforts to turn this into legislation are intensifying. In December, the Liberal Democratic Party launched the Inquiry into Death with Dignity Project Team. Although several councilors raised objections and expressed reservations, the move to push the bill through the current Diet session remains persistent. DPI-Japan has set up the Group to Oppose the Legislation for the Death with Dignity Law in collaboration with other organizations. Along with lobbying to councilors and associated groups, we have made preparations to hold various meetings, such as Assemblies in Councilors' Hall.

Additionally, the commencement of the new prenatal diagnosis from April 2013 was widely covered in the media. DPI-Japan played a role in confirming these reports at places like the Board Meeting, as well as participating in symposiums held by the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Continuing on from last year, we collaborated with the DPI Network of Women with Disabilities and published a report entitled "Challenges of Women with Disabilities - A Report on Current Status of Multiple Discrimination." This was disseminated widely among academics, public institutions and students. We had the chance to form a new network by cooperating in the setup of a talk session. This network was also a great chance to advance the empowerment of women with disabilities. Moreover, members from the DPI Network of Women with Disabilities were invited to speak at the Commission for Disability Policy Reform, and thereby increased backup support. Under coordination with the DPI Network of Women with Disabilities, public comments were collected to support the development of ordinances. As a result, the sentence "Multiple Discrimination against Women with Disabilities" was inserted into the Kyoto Anti-discrimination Code for the first time ever.

As for the Disqualifying Clause on Disability, we are cooperating with the Citizens' Committee to Eliminate Disqualifying Clauses on Disability (CCEDCD) to tackle the issue. The Public Offices Election Act was amended in May 2013, and the previously deprived voting rights of adult wards were reinstated. On the other hand, regarding the proposed

revision of the Road Traffic Act, we have actively worked with other organizations in a signature collection campaign to request for a more careful consideration. The suggested amendments would be capable of fostering discrimination toward those with disabilities and illnesses, making it more difficult for them to obtain and renew driving licenses. Additionally, we have lobbied to have re-examinations as needed in the third Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities. We are working to incorporate the issue of revising the Disqualifying Clause on Disability into the basic objectives for ending discrimination. To this end, the CCEDCD is currently looking into the various local governments' employment examinations for persons with disabilities - investigating the eligibility for examination and the criteria considered.

5. Other Activities

With a financial support from Kirin Foundation, DPI-Japan began a project for empowerment and leadership training of young people with disabilities from this fiscal year. Many applicants had come from our member organizations across the country, and 21 persons with disabilities have participated in the training. In the course, DPI-Japan invited persons with intellectual disabilities from Korea, heard their experiences of movements and attended 19th People First national assembly with them. In December 1st, as a special session of 2nd DPI Disability Policy Discussion Seminar, the trainees made a report of the course. In the course, participants have shared issues of the individuals and disability movements and made their action plan to continue activities with this network.

DPI-Hokkaido Local Assembly has actively encouraged young persons with disabilities to join in management of the organization and they took initiatives of conducting events such as seminars. DPI-Hokkaido has participated in committees of Sapporo City. Moreover, DPI-Hokkaido has contributed into operation of the Ordinance of Persons with Disabilities in Hokkaido, and an advocacy center for the rights of persons with disabilities established by the board members of DPI-Hokkaido to consult and support isolated persons with disabilities.

In June, DPI-Tokyo in collaboration with JDF Tokyo conducted lobbying for diet members and movements to appeal. In Aichi prefecture, our member organization has taken charge of the secretariat of Aichi Disability Forum and managed regional seminars for making an anti-discrimination ordinance for persons with disabilities. Under the preparatory committee of DPI-Kansai, members from 5 prefectures in Kansai region gathered at Nara to share each activity and discuss the next DPI national assembly, which will be held at Kobe City in June 2013.

DPI Advocacy Center of Persons with Disabilities handled 1418 cases in fiscal year of 2013. Cases of persons with psychiatric disabilities shared 34%; physical disabilities 28%, intellectual disabilities 8%, internal impediment 4%, visual impairment 3%, hearing impairment 1%, and unknown or others including developmental disability, intractable

diseases or chronic disorder 22%. The result shows that social services for persons with psychiatric, developmental disabilities, chronic disorder and intractable diseases have not been provided appropriately in society.

In quarterly magazines of DPI-Japan, as the special topic of the first issue of fiscal year of 2013, we reviewed movements of disabled people's organizations around the time of the change in political administrations. For the second issue, after enacting the Act to eliminate the discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, we raised some subjects of future discussion. The special topic of the 3rd issue was inclusive education and the 4th issue was 2nd DPI Disability Policy Discussion Seminar in December. In monthly magazines, with timely topics, a page of interactions by pictures started from this year to get interests visually. Relay talk of our member organizations have been 48 times. The homepage has been used for releasing petitions and position documents of DPI-Japan or sharing information and resources. By the mail magazines and the blog, we have provided information of relief activities of the Earthquake, events of DPI-Japan, information from our members or calls for movements.

Braille printing division has made both text and braille documents of various area including national assembly and seminars of DPI, magazines published by DPOs and journals of labor unions. Our activities have contributed into information accessibility for persons with visual impairments through documents of various conferences, English and Russian documents for JICA training courses, seminars, workshops, questionnaires for researches, business cards or documents for municipal governments. Magazines of DPI-Japan have been published not only by braille but by text and recording.

Followed by the decision of the DPI-Japan annual assembly in 2012, three female leaders with disabilities have continuously joined in the Board of DPI-Japan as "Special Board member" to improve the gender balance in our Special Steering Committee. By this effort and the empowerment project, candidates for the next election of the Board have been increased, but further effort is necessary to improve the gender balance.

In the wake of the relief activities of previous years, networks of other NPOs, companies and supporters have been expanding and movements or activities of DPI-Japan have also been disseminated widely. Utilizing contribution deduction of the authorized NPO, DPI-Japan has made effort to increase donation and support members in collaboration with member organizations and concerned groups. To institute accounting criterion of NPO and apply for re-authorization under the new criteria, DPI-Japan reviewed its constitution and procedures or managements of the accounting and in March 20th, we received a document of the re-authorization (till March 19th of 2019) from Tokyo Metropolitan government.