

Section 2. Reemployment and Starting Enterprises Utilizing the Motivation and Abilities of Females

1. Expanding the Function of Mothers' Hello Work and Making the Services Available Nationwide

In most cases, female workers retire to take care of their children after giving birth. There were 0.7 million job seeking females with children under 12 years old and 1.8 million eager to work but not engaged in job seeking activities in 2002 ("Employment Status Survey" by the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2002).

Employment support has been provided to females who are eager to work while taking care of their children through establishing Mothers' Hello Works in 12 locations since FY 2006 and Mothers' Salons at Hello Works in 36 prefectures where Mothers' Hello Work is yet to be established so that females can play an active role in various fields and fully display their motivation and ability to work at throughout the lifecycle of marriage, child birth, and parenting.

More concretely, comprehensive and continuous support for reemployment are being provided including creating environments where females can visit with their children more freely, close one-to-one consultations and securing job openings according to job seeker's needs for those who are ready and eager to work promptly, and offering information on day-care centers in cooperation with local governments.

2. Expanding Support for Females in Starting Enterprises

In order to provide active support for females to work the "Center for the Advancement of Working Women" are implementing various programs including seminars and consultations, support for starting enterprises, and offering information required by female workers to maintain their health and choose suitable jobs. In addition, measures to support females in starting enterprises are being implemented, including a program to introduce mentors (experienced advisors), who can then provide know-how on management and advice on how to solve various problems to inexperienced entrepreneurs, and the operation of a special site that offers comprehensive information for supporting females in starting enterprises. Furthermore, subsidies have been paid to females who are in the parenting period with their youngest children being 12 years old or younger and live in prefectures where active the opening ratio is below the national average to facilitate them in starting enterprises.