

Section 3. Promotion of Bilateral Cooperation

1. Bilateral Cooperation in the Fields of Social Security and Health/Welfare

As Japan is the most rapidly aging country in the world it is important to verify the characteristics and problems of the existing systems in Japan compared to those of other countries in addressing common issues and making them references for policy making in Japan. In consideration of this, opinions on common issues were exchanged with Australia, who has advanced measures for mental health, in 2006. In May 2007 a seminar on “dementia and ethics, dementia and technology” was held with Nordic countries in Norway.

2. Bilateral Cooperation in the Fields of Employment/Labour

In order to solve common issues in the fields of employment/labour that developed nations face with the advancement of the global economy, it is important to conduct bilateral talks on these policies with the participation of labour-management. In consideration of this, discussions and information exchanges on common issues regarding employment problems have been made with the Korean government, labour, and management in April 2006 and with the German government, labour, and management in November the same year. In addition, a Japan-France Seminar (topic of “Promotion of Employment of Women and Work-Life Balance”) was held in France in November 2007 and a EU-Japan Symposium (topic of “Diversification of forms of work and employment”) was held in Tokyo in January 2008.