Point of “Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act”

Reform by law

1.Unification of measures for three kinds of disability

Current status

- Discrete systems for three kinds of disability (physical disability, mental retardation and mental disorder) (People with mental disorder have not yet been covered by the system)
- Implementing bodies are divided into prefectures or municipalities

○Resolve differences among systems for three kinds of disability and cover people with mental disorder by benefit system
○Unified implementation by municipalities with backup by prefectures

2.Reorganize service system into user-oriented system

Current status

- Facility and program systems are complicated by respective kinds of disabilities
- Deviation of actual usage from original purpose of facilities due to protracted admission period

○Reorganize facility systems divided into 33 types to 6 programs. Also, establish programs for “community life support service,” “support for employment” as well as services targeted for people with severe disabilities.
○Promote the easing of regulations and utilize current social resource

3.Drastic enforcement of support for employment

Current status

- 55% of the graduates from schools for the disabled children enter welfare facilities
- People who leave welfare facilities due to employment are only 1%

○Establish new programs of support for employment
○Strengthen collaboration with measures for employment

4.Achieve transparency and clarification of grant decision

Current status

- Lack of nation-wide usage rule (objective criteria to judge the level of necessity for assistance)
- Uncertain process of grant decision

○Introduce an objective measure of the level of necessity for assistance (classification of disability levels)
○Bring transparency to the process of making grant decision such as hearing the opinion of the certification committee

5.Ensure stable financial sources

Current status

- Possible surge of new users
- Uncertain structure of expense borne by the state

○Enforce the responsibility for the state on expense borne
○Establish a system that is supported by everyone, with introduction of a scheme for bearing costs in which users of welfare services also bear appropriate cost that is defined as 10% of fixed burden ratio and a monthly burden limit according to respective incomes

Establish a society where people with disabilities can lead a community life
Achieve a society of self-reliance and living-together