

# Social Security/Social Welfare

## ★ASEAN-JAPAN High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Society★

The Government of Japan advocated the “World Welfare Plan” at the Lyon Summit, France, in 1996, and the concept was widely accepted by the heads of states. Based on the aforementioned concept, MHLW has been working on improving social security as a broad definition including public health and medical insurance for more than 15 years in the ASEAN region. To do so, MHLW has provided support for sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices, and development of systems and human resources, which would be vital to economic development.



[Plenary Session of the 7th High Level Officials Meeting in 2009]



[Site Visit, as a part of the 7th High Level Meeting in 2009]

MHLW, since 2003, has also hosted the ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies in Tokyo and has invited high level officials who are in charge of health and social welfare policy in ASEAN countries, which aims to strengthen development of human resources and promote further collaborative relationships between ASEAN countries and Japan.

For the purpose of strengthening the cooperation among Japan, China, and South Korea in the field of health and welfare, the ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting and the ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare have been instituted since 2004. The results of the ASEAN/Japan High Level Officials Meeting have been reported in the ministerial meetings and highly commended. The High Level Meeting strives to promote better social security policy in collaboration with the ministerial meetings.

The themes of the High Level Meeting are determined based on the situation of ASEAN countries, proposals from the ASEAN secretariat as well as social security policies of Japan. With a focus on the collaboration between welfare and health services provided to the vulnerable such as the elderly, mothers and children, and people with disabilities, the Meeting has had discussions on linkage between central and local governments, responsibility demarcation between public and private sectors, and better use of community services.



[Facility visit, as part of the 7th High Level Meeting in 2009]