Birthrate Decline Measures

Overview

1990 <1.57 shock> Agreement between 3 ministers (Minister of Agreement between 4 ministers (Minister of Finance. Minister of Health and Welfare. and Education, Minister of Health and Welfare, Minister of Labour, and Minister of Construction) Minister of Home Affairs) 5-year emergency measures for Dec 1994 Angel Plan childcare Decided at the Cabinet Meeting on the promotion of measures for declining birthrate (From FY1995 to FY1999) Basic Policy on the Promotion of Dec. 1999 Measures for Declining Birthrate Agreement between 6 ministers (Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Minister of Health and Welfare, Minister of Labour, New Angel Plan and Minister of Construction, and Minister of Home Affairs) Dec. 1999 (From FY2000 to FY2004) Decided by the Cabinet on July 6, 2001 Formulated by MHLW Policy on Support for Balancing Work and Childcare July 2001 (the zero wait-listed children, etc.) Plus One Measures to Halt the Declining Birthrate Sept. 2002 Enforced step-by-step from July 16, 2003 Enforced on Sep. 1, 2003 Basic Act for Measures to Cope with Society with Declining Birthrate Act on Advancement of Measures to Support Raising Next-Generation Children July 2003 Decided by the Cabinet on June 4, 2004 Outline of Measures against the Declining Birthrate June 2004 Decided by the Meeting of Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate on December 24, 2004 (From FY2005 to FY2009) Dec. 2004 Plan for Supporting Child and Childcare Apr. 2005 Decided by the Meeting of Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate on June 20, 2006 Establishment and implementation of plans of action by local public June 2006 New Measures for Declining Birthrate entities and companies Decided by the Meeting of Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate on December 27, 2007 Work-Life Balance Charter "Japan to Support Children and Families" Important Strategy Dec. 2007 Action Guidelines for Work-Life Balance Promotion "New Strategy for No Wait-listed Children at Day-care Centers" Decided by the Meeting of Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate on January 29, 2010 Feb. 2008 Study Group on New Systems of Child and Childcare Decided by the Cabinet on January 29, 2010 Decided by the Meeting of Measures to Cope with a Society with a Declining Birthrate on June 29, 2010 Vision for Child and Childcare Jan. 2010 Overview of the basic plan draft for the new system of "Taking in Advance" Project child and childcare Nob. 2010 for Reducing Wait-listed Children

Circumstances of childcare support measures

Current Status of Various Childcare Support Projects

o Various childcare support services are considered not having been all available at neighborhoods

Project name			Contents	Actual status	Establishments in regions
Home-visit support	Visit to all families with a baby		Visiting all families with infants within 4 months after childbirth to provide information on childcare support and identify childcare environment, etc.	1,561 municipalities (General Affairs Division, Equal Employment, Children and Families Bureau (as of July 1, 2010))	Percentage of implementing municipalities: 89.2%
	Home-visiting childcare support services		Visiting families with children requiring childcare support to provide assistance and technical guidance, etc. on childcare/homework	1,041 municipalities (General Affairs Division, Equal Employment, Children and Families Bureau (as of July 1, 2010))	Percentage of implementing municipalities: 59.5%
Gathering places for parents and children	Regional centers for childcare support		Promotion of community-based exchange of parents and children and provision of consultation/assistance, etc. on childcare, etc.	5,199 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	0.24 centers per elementary school district
	Child center services		Providing group/individual guidance for children via playing, education/guidance for after-school children, development of community-based activities such as Mothers' Clubs, etc., education/guidance for older children, consultation for childcare families, etc.	4,360 centers (2,757 public centers and 1,603 private centers) (as of October 2009)	0.20 centers per elementary school district
	Temporary childcare (temporary day-care) services		Providing urgent/temporary day-care services in case of parent's sickness or for relieving physical and mental burden of childcare, etc.	6,460 facilities (FY2009 grant decision base)	0.29 facilities per elementary school district
Day-care services	n childcare services	Short-term admission for daily life assistance (short-stay) services	Providing day-care/protection services at facilities capable of providing appropriate protection, including foster homes, etc., in case of parents being unable to engage in childcare due to physical/mental/environmental reasons, including sickness and exhaustion, etc. (up to 7 days in principle)	637 facilities (FY2009 grant decision base)	0.35 facilities per municipality
	Short-term support s	Night-time nursing, etc. (twilight) services	Providing day-care services at facilities capable of providing appropriate protection, including foster homes, etc., in case of parents having difficulty taking care of their children for being absent on weekday evenings or on holidays due to occupational reasons, etc. Overnight stay is available.	330 facilities (FY2009 grant decision base)	0.18 facilities per municipality
Mutual-aid	Family support center services		Communication/adjustment services on mutual-aid activities between those willing to receive assistance such as day-care services (user members) and those willing to provide assistance (provider members)	599 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	0.33 facilities per municipality

Note: The total number municipalities is 1,800 (as of April 1, 2009 (*the number of municipalities in the respective prefectures at the time of survey is used for two home-visit support services)).

Note: The number of public elementary schools, as used for determining elementary school district, is 22,048 ("FY2009 School Basic Survey", Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).

Current Status of Diverse Day-Care Measures

Project name	Contents	Actual status	Establishments in regions
Certified day-care centers	Facilities to provide day-care services for infants not receiving sufficient nursing care in place of parents working day time, etc. (open 11 hours, 8 day-care services hours, approx. 300 days, in principle)	Day-care centers: 23,068 Infant users: 2.08 million (As of April 1, 2010)	1.05 centers per elementary school district
Extention chilcare businesses	Providing day-care services of over 11 open hours	15,901 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	69.4% of licensed day-care centers
Childcare businesses in holidays	Providing day-care services on Sundays and holidays, etc. (* implemented by day-care centers that are open throughout the year) $$	978 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	• 4.3% of licensed day-care centers • 0.54 centers per municipality
Night time childcare businesses	Providing night time day-care services up to around 22:00 (* open hours of approx. 11 hours)	77 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	• 0.34% of licensed day-care centers • 0.04 centers per municipality
Specific childcare business	Flexibly providing day-care services for 2-3 days a week or morning/afternoon only as required	1,269 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	• 5.5% of licensed day-care centers • 0.71 centers per municipality
Childcare businesses for children with disease and children after disease	<for children="" sick=""> Sick children in regions are temporarily taken care of by nurses, etc. at special rooms attached to hospitals/day-care centers, etc. <for children="" from="" recovering="" sickness=""> Children in regions recovering from sickness are temporarily taken care of at special rooms attached to hospitals/day-care centers, etc. <for children="" health="" poor="" with=""> Children with poor health are temporarily taken care of at day-care centers</for></for></for>	1,250 centers (FY2009 grant decision base)	1 center per 1,632 children using licensed day-care centers 0.69 centers per municipality
Family-style day-care services	Providing day-care services for a small number of children mainly younger than 3 at residences, etc. of nursery teachers or family-style caregivers authorized by the mayors of municipalities via training in cooperation with day-care centers	Family-style caregivers: 223 Child users: 828 (FY2009 grant decision base)	0.12 family-style caregivers per municipality

Note: Total number of municipalities is 1,800 (as of April 1, 2009). The number of public elementary schools, as used for determining elementary school district, is 22,048 ("FY2009 School Basic Survey", Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).

- New Systems of Child and Childcare -

Basic Ideas -

Establishment of a system for realizing a society that supports children and childcare families

- Children are the hope of society and strength of the future.
- The healthy development of children is a natural desire and a pleasure to all adult members of our current society.
- Ensuring that all children are respected and their development equally protected is therefore necessary.
- "Development of parents" should also be supported in bestowing a sense of fulfillment from childcare.
- → A new mutual support system for childcare shall be established that takes into consideration the reduced childcare abilities of families and communities associated with the changes in the environment surrounding children and childcare, etc. and on the premise that parents have the primary responsibility for childcare.
 - * The importance of mutual support between children and adults and disaster victims and supporters etc. was reconfirmed in the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster.
- Rapid progress in declining birthrate
- The current situation that disrupts people's desire to be married, have children, and raise them.
- Approximately 90% of single males/females intend to get married, with the number of children they wish to have being 2 or more.
- Environment surrounding children and childcare, including families, communities, and employment, etc. has been changing.
- Support for child and childcare is inadequate in terms of both quality and quantity
- o Increased sense of isolation and burden of childcare
- Support for child and childcare families by all of society
 Support for child and childcare is an investment in the future
 Realization of a society that fulfills people's desire to get married, have children, and raise them
 Ensuring respect for all children and their equal development
- Ensuring quality development environments for all children, and realizing the healthy development of all children, including any that require special
- support

 Ensuring high quality school education/day-care services and improved community-based childcare support
- The percentage of family-related social expenditure of GDP is low (Japan: 1.13%, France: 3.00%, U.K.: 3.27%, and Sweden: 3.35%)
- Serious issue of wait-listed children, shortage of after school children's clubs or "barriers to the first grade of elementary school"
- Elimination of M-shaped curve (percentage of females in their 30s in the labour force)
- Vertically segmented systems/financial resources for childcare support
- Insufficient measures in providing support according to the actual situation of a region
- Resolving the issue of wait-listed children through promoting a better work-life balance and quantitative expansion of day-care services in thus realizing a society in which both males and females can balance childcare with work
- Unified systems/financial resources for childcare support required according to their growth
- Establishment of Child and Childcare Conference (tentative name)
 Identification of people' s needs, including potential needs, and
 systematic development of provision systems (municipalities will be
 responsible for them)
- * "School education" denotes education for children before entering elementary school, as stipulated in the School Education Act (school education at infancy) whereas "day-care services" denotes day-care for infants, as stipulated in the Child Welfare Act. Hereinafter the same.

口)

Content (Points) of New Systems of Child and Childcare

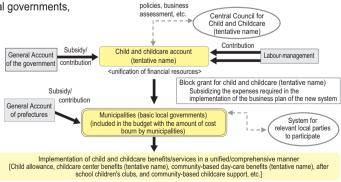
■ Ensuring quality development environments for all children, and support for child and childcare families from all of society

- Support for all child and childcare families (child allowance, community-based childcare support, etc.)
- Integration of kindergartens and day-care centers (creation of childcare centers (tentative name), etc.)
- Unification of benefit systems (creation of childcare centers (tentative name))
- Unification of facilities (creation of general facilities (tentative name))
- Provision of high quality school educations at infancy and unified day-care services
- · Quantitative expansion of day-care services
- · Achievement of improved in-home child care support

■ Establishment of new unified system (image of the new system provided within the Basic System Design)

- o Basic local government units (municipalities) shall be the primary implementers
- Municipalities formulate implementation plans according to local needs and provide benefits/services
- The government and prefectures provide multi-layered support to the primary implementers of municipalities

 ex.: Evaluation of business
- Financial support from all of society (the government, local governments,
- business operators, and individuals)
- Assumes that permanent financial resources will be secured by the government and local governments
- Unified promotion systems/financial resources of the government
- Unification of promotion systems/financial resources of the government that differ across different systems
- Establishment of Child and Childcare Conference (tentative name)
 - A system in which experts, local governments, and other responsible parties, which include representatives of labour and management, those actually engaged in childcare, relevant organizations, and NPOs, etc. can participate in the process of childcare support policies, etc. being made shall be discussed



school children's clubs, and community-based childcare support, etc.]

Image of the new system as provided within the Basic System Design. Discussions will continue to take place on the ideal cost bearing roles of the government, local governments, and business operators, the ideal cost bearing in relation to existing financial measures, and block grants for child and childcare (tentative name).

Outline of Benefit Design

- Child allowance (cash)
- Community-based childcare support services (tentative name)
- (*) Implemented in cooperation with services implemented by prefectures, including social childcare, etc.
- Regional centers for childcare support, temporary childcare, visit to all families with a baby, etc. (scope of coverage is legally stipulated)
- Antenatal checkups

- Benefits for child birth/childcare leave (tentative name) → Issues to be discussed in the future
- Childcare center benefits (tentative name) childcare centers (tentative name):

general facilities (tentative name), kindergartens, day-care centers, and other facilities that meet objective standards are designated as childcare centers (tentative name)

- Community-based day-care benefits (tentative name)
- Small-scale day-care services, family style day-care services, home-visit day-care services, day-care services at offices
- * Childcare center benefits (tentative name) and communitybased day-care benefits (tentative name) are available for early morning/night time/holiday day-care services.
- Extention chilcare businesses, childcare businesses for children with disease and children after disease
- After school children's clubs

Systems for Childcare center benefits (tentative name) and community-based day-care benefits

Secured benefits based on users' choice

- Securing sound benefits = certification by municipalities
- Public contracts between users and business operators with the participation of municipalities
- o Support for appropriate and sound use of facilities and services by municipalities
- Benefits in kind based on the method of user subsidies and statutory proxy receipt
- Based on official price with extra collection under certain conditions* with consideration given to persons with low-income*
- * Limited to facilities established by entities other than municipalities and social welfare foundations for the time being.
- Development of infrastructures with the entry of various business entities
- Introduction of the designated business operator system (various benefits and different standards for each business type)
- Equal footing
- Inclusion of depreciation expenses in benefits for joint-stock corporations, etc.
 Withdrawal regulation and creation of a system for information disclosure, etc.
- Securing quality with objective standards
- * Original services by municipalities will be considered in the future.

[Reference: Classification of benefits and services]

Benefits for child and childcare support (tentative name)

(Implemented as benefits for individuals)

- Child allowance
- Childcare center benefits (tentative name)

Childcare centers (tentative name):
general facilities (tentative name), kindergartens, day-care
centers, and other facilities that meet objective standards are
designated as childcare centers (tentative name)

- Community-based day-care benefits (tentative name)
 - Small-scale day-care services, family style day-care services, home-visit day-care services, day-care services at offices
 - * Childcare center benefits (tentative name) and community-based day-care benefits (tentative name) are available for early morning/night time/holiday day-care services.
- Benefits for child birth/childcare leave (tentative name)
 - \rightarrow Issues to be discussed in the future
- Original services by municipalities will be considered in the future.

Block grant for child and childcare (tentative name)

(Implemented as services of municipalities)

- Community-based childcare support services (tentative name)
 - (*) Implemented in cooperation with services implemented by prefectures, including social childcare, etc.
 - Regional centers for childcare support, temporary childcare, visit to all families with a baby, etc. (scope of coverage is legally stipulated)
- Extention chilcare businesses, childcare businesses for children with disease and children after disease
- After school children's clubs
- Antenatal checkups

Concrete Scheme of Unification of Kindergartens and Day-Care Centers

< Concrete scheme >

Unification of benefit system

- Creation of new systems of child and childcare -
 - Systematic development of school education/ day-care services in regions
 - Formulation of business plans for new systems of municipalities (tentative name) -

Municipalities will <u>formulate business plans for the new systems of municipalities (tentative name)</u> that incorporate the projected demand for child and childcare related services and measures to then secure the projected volume, etc. in addition to the projected demand for school education/day-care services in regions.

- Quantitative expansion of various day-care services
- Introduction of designated systems -

Quantitative expansion of quality day-care services will be promoted by facilitating the entry of various business entities into the day-care service business using financial measures for facilities and day-care services that meet objective standards, etc.

- Unification and improvement of benefits
- Creation of childcare center benefits (tentative name), etc. Efforts will be made to eliminate double administrations and to secure the fairness of financial measures for school education/day-care services through unifying school education/day-care service benefits via the creation of childcare center benefits (tentative name).

Unification of facilities

- Creation of general facilities (tentative name) -

General facilities (tentative name) will be created in thus providing school education/day-care services and in-home childcare support in a unified manner.

< Effects >

Provision of high quality school education/day-care services in a unified manner

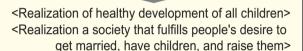
- Quality school-education/day-care services will be provided in a unified manner through systematic development of school education/day-care services in regions and the establishment of general facilities (tentative name), etc.
- Quality of school education/day-care services will be improved even further through revision of placement standards, etc.

Quantitative expansion of day-care services

- Shifting from kindergartens to general facilities (tentative name) will result in a quantitative expansion of day-care services.
- The number of quality day-care services will be increased using financial measures (designation based) for various day-care service services, including facilities that meet objective standards and family style day-care services, etc. It will also contribute to eliminating the number of wait-listed children.

Enhanced in-home childcare support

 In-home childcare support functions will be improved thorough shifting from kindergartens/day-care centers to general facilities (tentative name) and promoting community-based childcare support services, etc.



^{* &}quot;School education" denotes education for children before entering elementary schools, as stipulated in the School Education Act (school education at infancy), while "day-care services" denotes day-care for infants, as stipulated in the Child Welfare Act. Hereinafter the same.

Systematic Development of school education/day-care services in regions (Image)

Status with and demands of child and childcare families

Families with children aged 3 or older that are not using day-care centers etc. and rearing children at home (Needs of child and childcare) School education + childcare support

Families with children
aged 3 or older that are using
day-care centers, etc.
(Needs of child and childcare)
School education
+ day-care services
+ childcare support

Families with children younger than 3 that are using day-care centers, etc. (Needs of child and childcare) Day-care services + childcare support

Families with children younger than 3 that are not using day-care centers etc. and rearing children at home (Needs of child and childcare) Childcare support

Investigation/identification of demands

Business plans for new systems of municipalities (tentative name)

Systematic development

Benefits for child and childcare support (tentative name)

Childcare centers (tentative name) = subject to childcare center benefits (tentative name) via designation*

Small-scale day-care service providers Family style day-care service providers Home-visit day-care service providers Subject to community-based day-care benefits (tentative name) via designation

Regional centers for childcare support, etc.

Broadly implemented at childcare centers (tentative name) and other public facilities, etc. in addition to consultations, etc. provided by municipalities.

^{*} Facilities that meet objective standards in securing quality are subject to designation. More concretely, general facilities (tentative name), kindergartens, day-care centers, and other facilities that meet the objective standards.

Promotion of Early Childhood Education in the Past and **Reformation of Next-Generation Development Support**

FY2004-

FY2005

Central Council for Education Report (January 2005)

- Early childhood education is an education that should be provided to children at all places involved in their lives, including education provided at day-care centers, etc.
- Promotion of comprehensive early childhood education by 3 entities, namely families, loca communities, and facilities such as kindergartens, etc.
- Improved early childhood education taking into consideration development of children and continuity of (cooperation/connection between kindergartens and elementary schools)
- Joint discussion meeting between Early Childhood Education Committee of Central Council for Education and Committee on Children of Social Security Council (December 2004)
- Discussion from the viewpoints of early childhood education and next-generation development support
- Opportunities for early childhood education/day-care services should basically be provided regardless of employment conditions of their parents, etc.
- In addition, provision of consultation, advice, and support for childcare families and occasions for parent child exchange is important

FY2006-FY2008

Revision of Basic Act on Education (December 2006)

- Newly provided that " education at childhoods" is important as it is the basis of character building for their lives (including education provided at day-care centers,
- Security of systematic/organized education from kindergartens to universities
- o Revision of School **Education Act** (June 2007)
- Provided kindergartens as the first schools that children enter in
- Clearly provided that kindergartens develop basis for compulsory education and the following education
- Newly added provisions on family and community-based early childhood education
- o Revision of the Points of Kindergarten Education (March 2008)
- Cooperation and connection between kindergarten education and elementary
- school education Continuity with families/communities and cooperation/support (Guidelines for Day-Care Services at Day-Care Centers are also revised to be consistent with the Points of Kindergarten Education)

Creation of certified childcare center system (October 2006)

 Provision of high-quality early childhood education, day-care services, and childcare support for all children in a comprehensive manner regardless of employment conditions of their parents

o Study Group on Ideal Certified Childcare Center System (March 2009)

- · Enhanced financial support and elimination of double administration
- · Promotion of discussion of concrete systems in the future taking into consideration the directions of day-care system reform
- The Act stipulates that provisions of the Act shall be reviewed when five years have elapsed since the enforcement of the Act, and therefore necessary review will take place along with the discussion on day-care service reform

Establishment of he Special Subcommittee on Measures to Reverse Birthrate Decline of the Social Security Council (from December 2007)

- o First Report (February 2009)
- · Reformation of day-care
- Provision of support for all childcare families
- · Systems for information disclosure/assessment
- · Financial resources/cost bearing

- o Summarizing the past discussions (December 2009)
- · Securing seamless services from childcare leave through day-care services to after school measures
- · Provision of support for all childcare families
- User (children)-centric service provision
- Actualization and quantitative
- expansion of potential demands
- · Responding to various user needs Service provision according to the
- actual situations in regions · Securing stable financial resources

Vision for Child and childcare (January 2010)

FY2009

- In order to immediately eliminate the number of wait-listed children services will be expanded through effective utilization of existing social resources to the maximum, etc. In addition, reformation of the system from the point of view of children and childcare families will be promoted, including the provision of early childhood education and day-care services in a comprehensive manner (unification of kindergartens and day-care centers), etc., in thus enabling all children to have access to quality early childhood education and day-care services
- Overview of the basic plan draft for the new system of child and childcare (June 2010)
- Early childhood education and day-care services will be unified and provided in an integrated manner at childcare centers (tentative name) in accordance with the new guidelines through breaking the barriers that separate kindergartens, day-care centers, and certified childcare
- Childcare centers (tentative name) will be subject to "benefits for kindergarten-day-care cente integration (tentative name)" Points on Kindergarten
- Education and Guidelines for Day-Care Services at Day-Care Centers will be integrated into newly created guidelines (Child Guidelines (tentative name))
- Functional unification, including establishment of common qualifications, will be promoted
- Entry of various business entities

Reformation of next-generation development support

childhood education

Promotion of early